

*Offering Major Colonial Type Coins,  
some Very Rare Die Varieties  
and Pieces with Exceptional Provenance*





## WELCOME TO FIXED PRICE LIST #25

TWO price lists in 2023 – and in just the first half of the year to boot? Yes, that is a first for me, I admit, but it was the goal when I started issuing these smaller (100 lots or less) lists instead of the massive 600+ lot behemoths of the past. Changing times and changing technologies have meant that instead of only being able to justify plating coins in small, black and white images due to printing and postage costs, I can now email price lists with every coin photographed in color, enlarged, and with as much text as needed – though any of you who have read some of my articles in *The Colonial Newsletter*, *The C4 Journal* and *The Journal of Early American Numismatics* know that I am happy to fill many pages when the story the coins tell are worth the space. But on these price lists I try to keep it to a page or so per coin at the most, unless something really needs more space – such as the extremely rare cast Ryder 5 Vermont copper on this list, which was a ground find five years ago in Massachusetts. This offering comes fast on the heels of Julia Casey’s Numismatic Literary Guild award-winning article concerning a ring of counterfeiters who may have made this very coin. Research like this is what keeps our part of the hobby vibrant and alive. No matter how much we think we know, there is still more out there to be found – and no matter how right we think our theories currently are, more research may well reveal cracks in their foundations. Each generation can and should have their own take on these fascinating pieces of history

My last price list, which offered coins priced at \$500 or less saw many orders, for which I am grateful. The present list expands the price range from \$50 to over \$5,000 though, as always, I strive to find that “sweet spot” of affordable, collector grade coins: higher grade pieces for the more available type coins, middle grades for rarer things, and yes, lower grade examples of varieties or types that are very rare. While the high grade colonials bring record-breaking prices at auction, that is not where most of us can afford to play – and there is no shame in owning the worst known example of a variety that may have just half a dozen pieces extant. I would much rather own that than coin than to not have that variety at all (and I know that if I ever somehow upgraded it, I would have no problem finding a ready buyer for the downgrade). I have also strived to offer a wide range of pieces, from Massachusetts silver and some rare early issues, all the state coinages, Fugio coppers, Post-Confederation tokens, Washingtonia, and an offering of counterfeit British and Irish coppers, including some very neat pieces. There are provenances to many major collections, slabbed coins, raw coins, error coins, counterstamped coins, mules, and really a bit of everything that I find interesting – and hope you do as well.

While I urge you to sit back, relax (preferably in an air-conditioned room these days, with an adult beverage of your choice) and enjoy the read, do remember that the first call or e-mail will get each coin; ordering information is on the final page.

I look forward to seeing many old friends – and some new ones too! – at this year’s C4 Convention in Baltimore in November, but until then, here’s a bit of colonial for your summer!

– Jeff Rock –



## An Affordable 1652 Oak Tree Sixpence From the Robert Martin Collection



**1. 1652 Oak Tree Sixpence. Noe-21, Salmon 2a-B, W-400**, a distinct type with IN on the obverse. Rarity-5. 31.6 grains. This is the Robert Martin specimen, and appeared as Lot 5012 of the Stack's Bowers November 2019 sale of his collection shortly after his untimely death. It was plated and described in that sale as follows:

**1652 Oak Tree Sixpence. Noe-21, Salmon 2a-B, W-400. Rarity-5. IN on Obverse. Fine Details--Damage (PCGS).** 31.6 grains. Slightly wavy and creased but without sizeable or distracting abrasions. The surfaces are glossy and smooth, displaying slate patina with swaths of peach hues and a faint colorful iridescence. The obverse is drawn mildly towards 1 o'clock and the reverse is ideally centered. The strike is uneven on the obverse, revealing just a ghost of the tree and a few select letters in the legends as seen on the Craig:11007 and Kendall:2345 specimens. The legends remain full on the reverse, framing a sharp date and much of the denomination. Pleasantly original and remarkably attractive.

*Provenance: From the Robert M. Martin Collection. Ex Heritage's sale of April 2011, lot 3908.*

While we agree with the grade on the slab, we have seen similar examples with these small creases that made it into regular holders, without a details grade. The reverse on this one is particularly sharp, and is full VF detail, while the weakness on the obverse is seen on nearly all examples of the variety – Robert Martin, a notoriously conservative grader, called this “Very Fine details, creased” on his envelope which accompanies the coin. The final line of the Stack's Bowers description really encapsulates the majority of Robert Martin's collection – he only added pieces that met his standards for eye appeal, and any coin with his provenance is going to be attractive. Affordable Massachusetts silver has all but disappeared from the market. This pleasing example, in the PCGS slab and with Martin's original handwritten envelope is just.....\$1,750

*Martin's envelope gives the weight as 31.6 grains, while the auction description is 31.8.*

***The Very Rare Noe-9 Pine Tree Shilling –  
A Large Planchet shilling, clipped to sixpence size!***



**2. 1652 Pine Tree Shilling. Noe-9, Salmon 7a-Diii, W-750. Rarity-6. Large planchet type, without Pellets at Trunk, Reversed first N of ENGLAND (not visible here). 38.5 grains.** Grade it as you see it – the obverse has no real trace of the tree, and just the bottoms of a few letters visible at the upper left, and a good portion of the beading that encircles the tree. The reverse has a date that is full and mostly bold, as is the denomination below – the details still there enough to securely attribute the variety. HEAVILY clipped, to the weight of a sixpence, and with the denomination purposely left intact (i.e. the coin wasn't cut in half to make a sixpence), one suspects that whoever did the clipping hoped to pass the piece at the full shilling denomination, keeping the clipped silver shards as pure profit. This was something that would have been easier to do when the Small Planchet Pine Tree shillings were also in circulation, as the difference in planchet diameters would not have been as easy to note. A fascinating bit of colonial skullduggery indeed! Noe-9 is a rare variety in its own right, missing completely from such stellar collections as Stearns, Garrett, and Picker, and with just a single example of the variety in both the Ford and Partrick sales, the latter a duplicate from the Hain sale. In both the Ford and Hain auction catalogues, it was noted "the real rarity of Noe 9 may still be underestimated even at R-6." Interestingly, there was a cut example of this variety in the Robert Martin collection, sold in the 2019 C4 auction – that piece was the more traditional pie-wedge shaped fractional and weighed in at 13.0 grains, almost exactly one-third of this example, suggesting that the Martin coin was made to circulate at the twopence valuation. Martin's cut example brought \$2,160 in a very weak colonial market. This piece is available at significantly less money, and has the added bonus of the strong date and denomination. Sometimes a coin can literally tell you the story of what happened to it after it was struck!.....\$1,250



## A Sharp Vlack 4-E St. Patrick Halfpenny *The Rare Small Letters Type*



**3. Undated (ca. 1652-1674) St. Patrick Halfpenny. Vlack 4-E, W-11540. High Rarity-5. Small Letters. Very Fine**, a sharply struck example of this very rare variety and challenging type coin. The peripheral details are a bit weaker than the centers, which are bold, a typical occurrence on the variety. The legends are mostly full on the obverse, with the first and last couple letters of FLOREAT just barely visible, while the rest of that word and REX are strong; the two middle C's of ECCE are weak on the reverse, the rest of the letters mostly sharp for the grade. The kneeling King David is very strong, the harp especially bold, and with a nice brass splasher visible at the crown. The standing St. Patrick is also strong, and the crowd of faces showing some detail. Lighter brown and russet, the surfaces smooth on the obverse, with some very light roughness on the reverse, though it is mostly visible only with a glass. No major post-strike damage, just a coin that saw some gentle use in circulation. A surprisingly rare variety, traditionally called a High R-5, but likely tougher than that. The Stack's Bowers Galleries auction archives show just nine examples of Vlack 4-E sold at auction in the last 20 years, two of those from the Anton collection in 2019 and 2020. Prior to those two specimens, it had been nearly half a decade before an example of the variety was offered by the firm. There are only a couple of truly nice examples of the variety known, including two Choice EF coins that Heritage sold for \$10,575 and \$7,800, while Anton's nice EF was a bargain at just \$2,040 in the very weak 2019 coin market, and would certainly sell for multiples of that price today. Aside from those three coins, VF seems to be about the best one can hope to find; there are a few that grade in the AG-VG range. A variety that has remained elusive, and with the small letters a distinct type coin that should be listed in the *Redbook*. The first that we've been able to offer in many decades, and a pleasing circulate example. Inexpensive at.....\$1,400

*The larger halfpenny sized coins were first catalogued by Robert A. Vlack in The Colonial Newsletter, January 1968 (Issue #21). There are only nine known varieties of the large halfpenny sized coins – compared to 200 or so of the smaller-sized farthings! One – or both? – sizes were brought to New Jersey by Mark Newby, an English Quaker, in 1681 and were made legal tender in that colony the following year, provided he would exchange those coppers on demand.*

**A RARITY-7 ST. PATRICK FARTHING**  
**With just ONE auction appearance!**  
*Sold for the benefit of the Clem Schettino Family*



4. Undated (ca. 1652-1674) St. Patrick Farthing. Martin 4i.1-Gj.1, W-11500. Low Rarity-7. Copper. Sea Beasts Below King. Fine, an evenly struck coin with full legends on either side, which always makes these easier to attribute. Central design detail a bit weaker than the peripheries as often the case, the weakness mostly confined to the obverse harpstrings and the lower side of the saint on the reverse. Nice lighter tan color, the surfaces with the usual areas of roughness, none of which is too bad. Some colonial-era idiot has pried out the brass splasher at the crown, in the mistaken belief that it was gold – a metal that was always in short supply in Ireland, and which would not have been wasted on a small value copper coin! This is quite a rare variety, rated a Low R-7 in Syd Martin's reference book. We have been able to find just a single example of this variety in both the Stack's Bowers and Heritage auction archives – a scratched piece sold in last year's C4 auction, which showed less detail than this coin. For over four centuries after these were struck there was no real reference work for them. The Breen *Encyclopedia* gamely tried to classify distinct types based on legends and ornamentation, as well as objects below the kneeling King David, and the late John Griffie devoted years to cataloguing the varieties he had seen, though without any standardized approach. It took the true genius of Syd Martin to tackle the series, finally illustrating and creating attribution numbers for all known varieties – amazingly this was the fourth neglected area of colonial American numismatics that Syd brought order to, the others being the Hibernia and Rosa American coinage of William Wood, and the coins struck by France for its North American colonies; a fifth book, published shortly after his death, tackled the even larger area of tokens and medals issued for the 1932 bicentennial of George Washington's birth. One would have to go back to the 1875 work of Sylvester Crosby to find a greater contribution to colonial American numismatics. Syd's 2018 reference lists eight examples of the variety known to him, including this one, with the finest being a pair of VF's in his own collection, the rest grading from AG to Fine. This coin was in the inventory of the late Clem Schettino, and is being sold for the benefit of his family, priced conservatively at just.....\$250

*Both the obverse and reverse dies were used only in this combination.*



***The Very Rare St. Patrick Farthing with Annulets  
and Sideways 8 Below King  
Also sold for the Clem Schettino Family***



**5. Undated (ca. 1652-1674) St. Patrick Farthing. Martin 9b.1-Fc.8, W-11500. Rarity-7. Copper. Annulets and Sideways 8 Below King. Very Good**, some details a bit stronger, others just a tad weaker, as stuck. The EAT of FLOREAT is weak, the remaining letters of the obverse legend visible and mostly strong. The kneeling King has detail in his robes and the harp that approach the Fine level. The reverse is similar, with QVIESCAT sharp save for the final letter, and just traces of PLEBS are visible at the right. St. Patrick is mostly outlined, while the church and various creatures he is driving out of Ireland are mostly strong. Dark brown fields with lighter devices, the surfaces lightly rough, with a larger area of roughness around the crown, possibly caused by the splasher in that area. A very slight straight clip is visible at the lower right obverse/lower left reverse, which touches no details. Another very rare variety, one that we have also been able to find just a single auction record for, an EF coin in last year's C4 auction which had a larger area of roughness at the crown, while similar areas of roughness at the crown appear on two of the three examples of the obverse illustrated in the Martin book, which does make one wonder if there was some impurity in the brass splasher that caused this. There are no other appearances of the variety in the Stack's Bowers or Heritage archives, though of course the Syd Martin reference work has only been out for five years. The Martin book lists just six examples of the variety known to Syd, including this one ("dealer inventory"). The highest grade of that group is Fine, followed by two VG's, so other than the EF coin mentioned, the variety does not appear to exist in choice condition – this is borne out by the fact that the present example is actually sharper than the three coins Martin illustrates for this obverse and the reverse is sharper than one of the two he illustrated. For the variety collector this is a rare opportunity to get a variety that will likely not be upgraded anytime soon, for just.....\$275

*This is the only use of the obverse die in the St. Patrick series, the Martin book showing a very late die state example which explains why it was not paired elsewhere; the reverse was used in just one other combination.*

## *A Nicely Detailed, Affordable Rosa Americana Halfpenny*



6. 1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.3-C.1, W-1222. Rarity-5. DEI GRATIA REX / UTILE DULCI type. **Choice Very Fine**, some details closer to the full EF level, and a very sharp example of this tiny coin – about the size of a British farthing (or a modern dime), which would make it among the smallest copper coins in circulation in the American colonies. Boldly struck, the legends are full on either side, as is the date, and the design detail strong as well, especially the obverse bust; if the seeds at the center of the rose showed just a bit more detail, this would have graded full EF. Rich tobacco brown, the surfaces hard enough to the eye, though a glass shows the usual micro roughness found on Bath metal coins. There is a tiny planchet edge crack at the top obverse, which was there before the coin was struck. No detracting marks or damage from circulation, just light and even wear. The halfpenny is the rarest of the three denominations of Rosa issues, as well as the most difficult to find in nicer grades. A scarcer variety, rated a full R-5 by Syd Martin. An appealing, affordable example of this variety or type.....\$300





## Philip Keller's 1722 Rosa Americana Penny NGC XF45



**7. 1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 3.1-D.6, W-1272. Rarity-4. UTILE DULCI legend.**  
This example appeared as Lot 3034 of the October 2010 Heritage Auction sale of the Philip W. Keller collection, where it was incorrectly described as a great rarity, as follows:

**UTILE DULCI 1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Extremely Rare Martin 3-D, W-1272. 1722 PENNY Rosa Americana Penny, UTILE XF45 NGC. Martin 3-D, W-1272, R.7.** The extremely rare Obverse 3, which shows no stop after the word REX. Both sides show an intriguing combination of texture and smoothness, of deep browns and lighter peaches and apricots. Though lightly worn, this is an impressively appealing Choice XF coin. Listed on page 40 of the 2011 *Guide Book*.

*Purchased from Richard Picker (8/11/1961).*

In Syd Martin's book on the series, the variety was given an R-4 rating, meaning scarce, but not rare, which seems accurate as we have found close to a dozen auction and fixed price sales of the variety. It is a distinct type though, with stops after all the obverse words save for REX, likely because the last letter of that word is very close to the bust and there simply was not room to squeeze it in. The Keller sale was notable for having most of its coins undergraded by the slabbing company, which apparently used Keller's 1960-era grades for many of the pieces, without taking into account how much grading standards have since changed. We think this example to be a full AU, and have seen less-attractive coins in full 55 slabs, and it may be worth resubmitting. Regardless of 45, 50 or 55 grade, it is a strongly-detailed example with great color and eye appeal, and is available at just.....\$1,400

*In the original slab as pictured, and accompanied by Richard Picker's original printed envelope, with Keller's handwritten annotations, including a variety attribution for a trial list of Rosa Americana varieties – something that would remain unaccomplished for 60 years until Syd Martin published his masterful reference work.*

**A Lovely NGC AU50 1722 Hibernia Halfpenny**  
**Harp to Left Type**  
*From the Eric Newman collection, with envelope*



**8. 1722 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 4.1-Bb.2, W-12690. Rarity-3. First Type, Harp at Left. About Uncirculated, in an NGC slab where this is graded AU50 BN**, though perhaps a bit nicer than that overall. This is the ERIC P. NEWMAN specimen, sold as Lot 30353 in the May 2014 sale of his collection by Heritage, where it was described as follows:

**1722 1/2P Hibernia Halfpenny, Type One, Harp Left AU50 NGC. M. 4.1-Bb.2, W-12690, R.3.** As a date, the Harp Left type of William Wood's 1722 Hibernia halfpenny is rarely seen in Mint State, and pleasing AU pieces are nearly as elusive. Five chief varieties are known, differentiated by the number of harp strings present. Martin describes six minor varieties for the eight strings variant, of which 4.1-Bb.2 is one of the more plentiful, and is often seen in type specialists' cabinets. This representative exhibits strong detail, particularly on the obverse, with smooth, problem-free surfaces and even olive-brown patina overall.

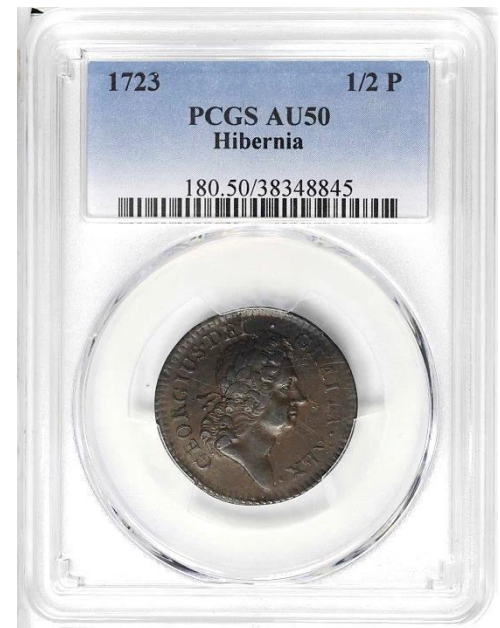
*Ex: Richard Picker; Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society.*

Light rub on the high points as expected, but free of any major marks, abrasions or damage, and we think a 53 grade more appropriate, especially with the lovely color. This first type with the harp to left is seldom found in higher grades and it seems most spent quite some time in circulation. Accompanied by the original lot ticket from the Newman sale, TWO different Newman envelopes (only one pictured above, this one made in the 1960s when Bob Vlack was researching die varieties of the Hibernia coinage, a project that was completed but sadly never published; the attribution number on this envelope is Vlack's; a table in the rear of Syd Martin's work correlates the Vlack and Martin numbers), and a cotton liner bearing the name and address of Richard Picker, the first dealer to specialize in American colonial coins. A lovely example, especially with this outstanding provenance.....\$1,200

*Accompanied by all the paper ephemera mentioned in the lot description above.*



**A HIGH RARITY-7 1723 HIBERNIA HALFPENNY**  
**PCGS AU50, Purchased in London in the 1960s**  
*Just one example noted in Syd Martin's book!*



**9. 1723 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 4.46-Gc.2, W-13120. High Rarity-7. PCGS Graded AU-50,** a grade we agree with. A very sharply struck example, as expected for the grade, with full legends and date, and all the design details crisp. Faint rub at the high points on either side – the king's hair at the center and the seated Hibernia figure's knee – tell of a very brief circulation before the coin found its way into a collector's cabinet. There are no detracting marks or damage from that circulation, which adds to the overall appeal. An exceedingly rare variety, rated a High R-7 by Syd Martin in his work on the Hibernia series, where he listed just a single example of the variety known to him, a piece in his own collection. This example appeared after Syd's book was published, hailing from a British collection, whose owner purchased it from the London firm of B.A. Seaby, Ltd in 1965, with the original Seaby envelope accompanying this lot. The High R-7 rating for the variety certainly seems to hold, as the Stack's Bowers archives show just one other example of the variety sold by them, a very rough VF, while the Heritage archives show not a single example of the variety sold in any grade. Syd's Hibernia coppers have not yet been sold at the time of this writing, so we are uncertain of the grade of his specimen, though the point is almost moot, as this example is either the finest or second finest of just three specimens that will be sold publicly when Syd's piece crosses the auction block! A high grade, extreme rarity in a series like NJ coppers would be a six-figure item, while even for the underappreciated CT copper series it would still be a five-figure coin. It just seems ridiculous that for a Hibernia that price drops down to the three-figures...a situation that we suspect will not last long, as collectors who love die varieties but who have been priced out of the state coinage series will discover the charm and value of these coins!.....\$950

## Phillip W. Keller's 1724 Hibernia Halfpenny NGC Graded AU50



**10. 1724 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 4.67-K.2, W-13690. Rarity-5. NCG Graded About Uncirculated 50.** A rather pleasing example of the toughest date in the Hibernia series, and one that is difficult to find choice, especially without roughness or defects. This is the Phillip W. Keller example, and was Lot 3108 in the October, 2010 auction of his collection by Heritage, where it was catalogued as:

1724 1/2P Hibernia Halfpenny AU50 NGC. Martin 4.67-K.2,W-13690, R.5. This late die state example shows a prominent die break through the 17 in the date to the rim. Medium-brown patina enhances the surfaces of this lightly abraded specimen. The details are well-defined with trivial softness on the reverse high points.

*Purchased from Richard Picker (9/18/1964).*

*From The W. Philip Keller Collection of U.S. Colonials.*

The 1724 date is the toughest to find for the Hibernia series, and also seems the most difficult to find in nice grades. This is quite pleasing in hand, and is a coin that would be difficult to upgrade!.....\$1,200

*Accompanied by the original printed Richard Picker envelope that Keller purchased this coin in, with type noted by Picker in ink and Vlack variety by Keller in pencil.*

**SPECIAL! WANT AN INSTANT DATE SET OF THREE HIGH GRADE HIBERNIA HALFPENNIES – 1722, 1723, and 1724 – WITH EXCEPTIONAL PROVENANCE, AND A GREAT RARITY TOO? TAKE ALL THREE OF THE ABOVE LOTS FOR JUST \$3,000 AND SAVE A BIT OVER 10% ON YOUR PURCHASE!**



**AN UNLISTED SILVER HIBERNIA FARTHING VARIETY**  
**Unknown to Syd Martin, ex Donald G. Partrick Collection**  
*A chance to obtain a UNIQUE colonial coin!*



**11. 1723 Hibernia Farthing, Struck in Silver. Martin 3.10-Bc.2, W-12500. UNLISTED IN THIS METAL, UNIQUE AS SUCH, Rarity-9. NGC graded Good 6, though much nicer than that, and a solid Fine in terms of wear received.** An amazing piece, this was Lot 15227 in the Heritage Auctions March 2021 auction of the Partrick collection where it was plated and described as:

1723 Hibernia Farthing, Silver, 67.4 grains, W-12500, "M. 3.10-Bc.2," Good 6 NGC. Only a few Hibernia farthings were struck in silver. The Martin reference does not include this example, which has the same reverse as M. 3.1-Bc.2, but features a different obverse. Apparently, Martin was not aware of the coin in Donald G. Partrick's holdings. The die combination is probably unique in silver. This coin shows attractive old-silver toning with smoothly worn devices, with a few light pinscratches below the bust. It is one of the most important coins in the series and a prize for colonial collectors as well as Hibernia specialists.

*Ex: Donald G. Partrick.*

This coin first appeared in a 1968 Lester Merkin sale, where it was purchased by Partrick, who, for over a half century, was the top collector of colonials. It was known to Walter Breen, but was somehow overlooked by Syd Martin when he wrote his book on the series; it remained off the market for over 50 years in the Partrick collection. Silver Hibernia farthings were previously known represented by just three varieties, two of which were listed as R-5 (3.2-Bc.10 and 3.3-Bc.3), while another was unique (1724 5.1-G.1), so to find a completely unlisted die variety in silver is special indeed. There aren't many opportunities for a collector to obtain a unique variety of colonial coin, let alone one in a series that the great Syd Martin collected, but never had the chance to own. We are pleased to offer this here – once sold, an offer of double or triple the price will not find another!.....\$4,500

*Accompanied by Donald Partrick's original handwritten envelope.*

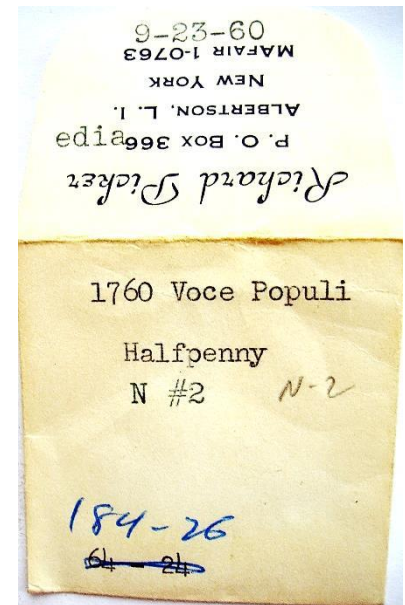
***A Lovely AU 1723 Hibernia Farthing  
A Rarity-5 Variety***



**12. 1723 Wood's Hibernia Farthing. Martin 3.15-Bc.9, W-12350. Rarity-5. DEI. GRATIA. REX. Choice About Uncirculated**, a lovely, original coin with just the lightest rub on the high points of either side – though this is often euphemistically called “cabinet friction,” that does seem to be the case here, as the coin is quite choice, and if it did circulate it wasn’t for long before some collector plucked it out to save. Rather sharply struck, the legends and date full on either side, and the devices showing all the finer detail that is expected for the grade level. Nicely centered, each side showing denticles, the ones at the top obverse and lower reverse larger and effectively framing the design. Very pleasing milk chocolate brown, the surfaces hard and with underlying luster. The obverse is essentially perfect for the grade, the reverse with a few trivial contact marks in the left field that you need a glass to see. The reverse shows the die rust under the ER of HIBERNIA noted in the Syd Martin book, while the obverse is in a perfect die state. Rated Rarity-5 in that book, which may be a bit underrated, as the Stack’s Bower archives show just two examples of the variety sold at auction – a Choice AU that is a virtual twin to this coin from the Ted Craige collection (at \$352.50), and a single EF that did not have choice color. While collectors of Hibernia coinage by die variety are few in number, it is a series that is well worth exploring, especially with Syd Martin’s wonderful reference book to lead the way. Rare die varieties are usually available for little more than type coin money, and are quite affordable even in EF and AU grades (and, unlike most colonials, the Hibernia series has patterns, die trials, off-metal strikes – like the above lot in silver! – and other delicacies for the more well-heeled collector). A very pretty little coin, and though it is a virtual twin to the Craige coin, it is available for less money – literally for just what a Choice AU example of this type would bring.....\$300



***A Nice 1760 Voce Populi Halfpenny, Nelson 2  
With a Richard Picker Envelope from 1960***



**13. 1760 Voce Populi Halfpenny. Nelson-2, W-13940, the so-called “1700” reverse. Rarity-3.** Choice Very Fine, a well-struck and pleasing example of this popular variety, which is one that is often mistaken for the extremely rare “1700” reverse error, here because the 6 of the date is punched high, with the top of that numeral embedded in the exergue line and the harp above. Bold legends and date, and design details commensurate with the grade. A charming reverse, with the seated figure’s head intruding into the legend, separating the word into HIBE R NIA. Very attractive medium brown, the surfaces hard and glossy, with just the minimal marks from its time in circulation, but none that detract in the least from the nice eye appeal. The date on this reverse is 1760, though it appears to have been cut into the die as 1700, with a short diagonal dash added to the top to make it into a 6; we note that the size of the 0 of the fourth digit is slightly larger than the circular part of the 6 as the third digit, and it may just be that the 6 punch was defective, with the top missing or broken off, and this detail then had to be added to the die by hand. There is an extremely rare variant of this reverse that shows the date as 1700 (one was in the Ted Craig collection, now in the Syd Martin estate), so any sort of correcting of this reverse die was done after it had already struck a small number of pieces. Seasoned collectors will know that the variety can be found in higher grade, though often with dark, rough, or problematic surfaces – we prefer a choice color, as here. Accompanied by a Richard Picker envelope from 1960, with typed variety info on the front and pencil and ink annotations on both sides, a nice piece of numismatic history now over 60 years old! Picker was the first dealer to specialize in American colonials, and he really helped the series attract more collector attention – all of the luminaries writing in the first decades of *The Colonial Newsletter* would certainly have been doing business with him. Picker didn’t publish much or issue printed price lists, which means he is better known today for his fabulous personal collection of colonials which Stack’s sold after he passed away – that October, 1984 auction remains one of the essential references in every specialists library. An attractive, affordable example which will be hard to materially improve without spending double the price.....\$400

*And a Nice Example of the Rare Nelson-10 Voce Populi*



**14. 1760 Voce Populi Halfpenny. Nelson-10, Zelinka 13-K, W-13820, the Long Head type. Rarity-5. Very Fine,** nicely struck and centered, the legends full on either side, the date sharp as well, though the last digit is about one-third off the edge at the right. Medium brown, the surfaces hard and with just the minimum of marks from circulation, and free of the roughness often found on the variety. The small Voce Populi series features a surprising number of different styles for both the obverse bust and the seated figure on the reverse, causing some to speculate that there were multiple issuers of this mysterious coinage. Certainly, when compared to the Nelson-2 variety offered in the previous lot one is struck by these differences – though the possibility exists that they were struck at the same mint, just with dies engraved by different people, or at different times, with the “1760” date retained for coins struck a few years later since that is what the public was used to, as was the case for the “1652” date on later Pine Tree issues which were actually struck a couple decades after that year. Regardless, the Voce Populi issues have long had double the interest as many other series, from both colonial specialists and Irish collectors, following in the footsteps of the St. Patrick coppers and the Wood’s Hibernia coinage. The majority of the Voce series range from common to moderately rare, with just a couple that are extremely rare, including a new variety that was found in the last few years, and collectors can easily assemble a dozen or more varieties in VF-ish grades without spending a lot of money. The Nelson-10 issue is rare, but certainly obtainable, though usually in lesser grades. The finest of the variety we are aware of are a single AU and two EF’s, with VF about the best that the collector can hope to find. Certainly the nicest example of this rare variety that we have had in stock in a quarter century or more, which says a lot! An excellent coin for either the type or variety collector, at a price that seems way too cheap.....\$550

*The Zelinka references can be found in The Colonial Newsletter, October 1976, issue #47.*



## A Coin...A Counterstamp...A Communion Token?

### *Illustrated in The Colonial Newsletter, 2012*



**15. 1773 Virginia Halfpenny. Newman 27-J, W-1585. Period After GEORGIVS, 7 Harp Strings. Rarity-2 as a variety, Rarity-7 with obverse counterstamped R.P.S. About Uncirculated,** a lovely coin with just light wear at the highpoints of either side, and exceptionally nice color and surface quality. While an AU Virginia is nothing too special, even one without the heavy spotting seen on many of the higher-grade examples from the famous Cohen Hoard, this coin is made far more special by the initials R.P.S. counterstamped at the center obverse. This counterstamp was done with a logotype punch, not individual letters, and is not found on any coin other than Virginia coppers. In the December 2012 issue of *The Colonial Newsletter* (now available for free on the Newman Numismatic Portal), Roger Moore and Dennis Wierzbba illustrate 9 examples (including this, which is Illustration F on Plate 2), and note the existence of a couple more that they were not able to have photographed. With a dozen or so known to the authors, the existence of a few more pieces is certain, so there are perhaps 15 or so examples of this counterstamp known. All the ones seen are in high grade (EF at the minimum), and all have the R.P.S. counterstamp centered on the obverse, punched vertically (a few show more than one punch, and one has the counterstamp rotated so that the R is at the bottom of the coin and the S at the top). There was clearly some care given to the placement of the counterstamp, and that care may have gone into the selection of the host coins as well, as all 9 examples illustrated in the CNL article are high grade, with clean, smooth surfaces, including one that was later holed. The authors discount the possibility of this being a merchant or tradesman's counterstamp and instead propose that these were actually done for use as communion tokens, possibly by the Reformed Presbyterian Synod – R.P.S. – of Pennsylvania. Some of the churches that splintered from that group were in an area that later became West Virginia, and the printed history of those churches mention the use of communion tokens but does not describe them, which certainly adds credence to the theory. Communion tokens were in wide use at the time, and several types are known for North America, the most famous being the Albany Church Pennies. The Virginia halfpennies with the R.P.S. countermark are known on just four varieties – Newman 23-Q, 25-M, 26-Y, and 27-J. The authors also suggest the counterstamps were applied in the 1775-1810 period, on coins pulled from circulation, with the light wear on known specimens from their gentle use within the church only. A fascinating and rare issue, we note none were in the Syd Martin collection of Virginia halfpennies.....\$900

*The November 1773 William Pitt Sentimental Magazine Token,  
An Inexpensive “Pitt Token!”*



**16. 1773 Lord Chatham (William Pitt the Elder) Sentimental Magazine Token or Medalet. Copper. Betts-522, Warburton 90c. Choice About Uncirculated,** a boldly struck example of this popular token, one that never saw much (if any) actual circulation but has just very faint rub on the highpoints of Pitt's wig. Predating the Conder token series by 14 years, these small, farthing-sized tokens or medalets were issued by *The Sentimental Magazine*, a London publication that was issued from March 1773 until December 1777. As a way to attract subscribers the new magazine (which had much competition in the market), hit on including a free medalet with each issue of the magazine, hiring the industrious John Kirk to cut the dies and presumably strike them as well. In an advertisement prior to the first issue it was stated that "With every Number will be given a Medal of some reigning Toast, some great Personage, some Hero famed in the Annals of our Kingdom, or those of the Continent, some celebrated Patriot, or some uncommon literary Genius." In all, thirteen different medalets (and a few different varieties of some) were issued, heavy on royal and aristocratic personages, most likely done to attract the attention and patronage of these moneyed peoples – though oddly including a medalet for Oliver Cromwell, who was responsible for beheading a King (though that was more than a century earlier and forgive and forget, and all that). The only medalet in the series not honoring a ruler or aristocrat was one for famed actor David Garrick, who was also honored on a number of Conder tokens, slightly later. The price of the magazine was 6d per issue (equivalent to about \$5 in today's money), and the Pitt medalets went out with the November 1773 printing. Not surprising, many of the medalets that accompanied the magazine ended up in circulation, as they are the same size as the farthing – indeed, the average grade for Sentimental Magazine pieces is around VF, so they circulated for some time. These medalets were issued in silver, silvered copper, copper, and white metal, with the more expensive silver and silvered pieces available for purchase or to be used as awards for articles or poems printed in the magazine – though none have been found used as such to date. The William Pitt (Lord Chatham) issue is the only one listed by Betts in his work on American medals, and is always popular with American collectors due to his support of the colonies during the Stamp Act crisis – many colonial specialists will include this token with their 1766 Pitt halfpenny (and if they are lucky, farthing).....\$175 A 2018 booklet on this series by Martin Warburton, with a couple supplements, gives all the known information on the series, including dates of issue for each, and a numbering system. Please contact me for information on this inexpensive booklet if you want one for your library!



## *A Pleasing 1785 Nova Constellatio Copper*



**17. 1785 Nova Constellatio Copper. Crosby 3-B, W-1895. Rarity-2. CONSTELLATIO, Pointed Rays. Very Fine,** easily in the Choice category in terms of strike, wear, and color. Boldly struck, the legends and date are full on either side. The all-seeing eye at the center obverse is nearly full, while all of the rays and stars are bold. The reverse wreath is full, the large script US at the center all visible, the area at the absolute center weak as usual, the rest sharp. Very attractive light brown, the surfaces are hard and quite choice to the eye, save for a tiny dig on the obverse between the T and E of CONSTELLATIO, and a couple other much smaller digs before the J of JUSTITIA – these are all ancient and toned down to the surface color, so not nearly as detracting as they would otherwise be. A glass also shows some hairlines on the obverse though you will actually need the glass to see them. Struck from an early state of this obverse die before the extensive spalling (often, though incorrectly, called die rust) weakened much of that die. For decades the Nova Constellatio series was not that popular with collectors and despite only having eight die varieties for the 1783-5 issues (the 1786 being an extreme rarity), many collectors would have either a date set or a slightly larger set with the two collectible dates and both blunt and pointed ray types. This seems to have changed with the publication of Q. David Bowers' wonderful 2018 book *The Copper Coins of Vermont, and Interrelated Issues 1783-1788*, which included a detailed look at the Nova Constellatio series. In a very short period demand for this coinage skyrocketed, and with a relatively small supply of most varieties available, prices rose, more than doubling in just a couple years for every grade level. While we used to be able to stock a dozen or so Nova Constellatios at any given time, it has become difficult to find more than an example or two a year that we think offer good value for the money. This well-detailed example will certainly fill a hole for the collector who doesn't want to spend a grand or more on one with equally nice surfaces and color, but without the light digs – you get all the coin, at half the price!.....\$550

**The EXTREMELY RARE 1641-A French Colonies Quinzain**  
***Fewer than 15 Examples Known – 3 of those in Museum Collections***  
***Missing from the ANS and Ford Collections!***  
***The Partrick specimen, available for Less than he paid for it in 1998!***



**18. 1641 A [Paris Mint] Quinzain of 15 Deniers. Gadoury 22, Ciani 1710, Duplessy 1344, Droulers 72, Breen 272. PCGS Very Fine Details.** The legends are full on either side, a few stray letters weaker than their neighbors, though all are visible, as is the date. The crowned shield on the obverse is sharp, the L to the right weaker than the one at left; the *fleur-de-lys* design at the top is especially strong, quite important for this issue. The center reverse is sharply struck, the cross full, the *fleur-de-lys* in the quadrants of the cross strong, while the one imitating the countermark at the exact center is sharp. Lovely light silvery gray, with traces of original silvering still visible. A small planchet crack and post-strike crease at the edge at the top right obverse accounts for the qualifier on the PCGS slab, and there are few notable marks from actual circulation, which makes for a very attractive example. Nicer than the example in the Musee Carnavalet in Paris, which is marginally sharper on the obverse but quite rough and stained. This is an EXTREME RARITY in the French Colonies series, and one that has engendered debate among specialists and researchers. Until last year there had been only three or four different examples of this issue sold at public auction in North America and Europe in the previous 75 years! This particular piece was apparently the first to be appreciated as something special when it appeared as Lot 141 in Stack's sale of January 1998, catalogued by Michael Hodder who stated that "Gadoury wrote of this issue that it is a 'monnaie extremement rare' and noted only three specimens as known to him, two being in public collections. Breen listed four, three the same as Gadoury, the fourth being the one that changed hands last year in a public auction. The royal ordinance of 1640 ordered that all old douzains (i.e. 12 deniers pieces) be stamped with a *fleur-de-lis* and reissued at 15 deniers. The issues of 1641 offered here is the only one to bear the *fleur-de-lis* in the die." This example sold to noted collector Donald Partrick, who was not able to upgrade it – or add another example to his cabinet, as he often did with extreme rarities (such as his two 1670-A 15 Sols); it realized \$2,200, a strong price for any French Colonies coin at that time. Another example was sold in the January 2004 sale of the "Enterprise Collection" of choice French coinage, a VF that realized \$4,830 (US).



The example from this cataloguer's personal collection was sold in Geoffrey Bell's May 2019 Toronto sale, and is now in the permanent collection of the Bank of Canada museum – it is a telling comment on the rarity of this issue that a museum with such an outstanding collection was not able to acquire an example earlier. The census changed with the 2022 sale of Syd Martin's frontline French Colonies, which included an amazing SIX examples – at least half of the specimens actually available to collectors! The finest was an AU that realized an amazing \$16,800, while the Choice EF that was also part of this cataloguer's personal collection was a bit of a bargain at \$4,560; a rough VF, not as nice as the one offered here, brought \$2,040. We suspect that the 1641 coinage was prepared as something of a pattern or trial run, to see if it would be more expedient to recoin the older douzains by overstriking them with full dies, rather than just with the small countermark which was applied by hand and required a lot of time and effort to produce. Perhaps due to the quality of the dies or of the planchets themselves (most of the known specimens have planchet splits or are rough), the idea of overstriking with dies was abandoned, and the countermarking continued. The overstriking idea would be resurrected a half century later when the Recoined Sols would be produced, many of which were overstruck on earlier douzains (and some of which were overstruck on earlier douzains that had themselves been revalued with the 1640 countermark!). Regardless of the reason for their production, the pieces definitely circulated, since nearly all known specimens grade in the VG-VF range, usually rough or damaged. If these were meant to circulate at the expected 15 Deniers value (because of the simulated countermark), they must have seen usage in the French Colonies as they would not have had that value in France itself. We note that two or three have been found in Canada, so we know some did make it over to the French Colonies, and it is likely that most of the ones not held by the Paris Mint actually did as well. We now know of just under 15 examples, three of which are held in permanent museum collections (two in France, one in the Bank of Canada; there is no example in the American Numismatic Society which has other French Colonies rarities such as both the 1717-Q denominations). The two in a French museum do not negate the probability that these were meant for North American circulation – if the extant pieces were struck as patterns or trial issues, it would be natural for the Paris Mint to add an example or two to their own cabinet or to place them in the holdings of another national museum. This is one of the legendary rarities of the French Colonies series – there are actually a couple more examples of the 1670-A 15 Sols known than there are 1641-A quinzains, and while the 15 Sols bring high five and low 6-figure prices in the rare instances they appear at auction, this underappreciated rarity sells for significantly less money. This one is actually available for less than what Don Partrick paid for it nearly a quarter century ago, which has to be an exceptional value..... \$2,100

*In a PCGS slab with the Partrick collection provenance noted, accompanied by the original lot ticket for the Stack's 1998 sale and Partrick's original handwritten envelope.*

*Gadoury states (translated from the original French): "an extremely rare issue, we have records of only three specimens. Two of them are in the collection of the Cabinet of Medals (the national collection), while the other is known from the treasure of Bouconville-Vauclerc which was uncovered in 1973 and contained more than 3400 douzains, blancguenars, Spanish patards and various billon coinages of different rulers." It's interesting that in a hoard of over 3400 douzains, most from French mints, there was but a single example of the 1641 issue – strongly suggesting that the original mintage was small and/or that few were actually in France.*

***A Nice 1640 countermark on a 1586-dated douzain  
With a possible counterfeit countermark!***



**19. 1640 countermark on a 1586-D [Lyon Mint] Henri III Douzain aux Deux H, 1<sup>st</sup> type, Ciani 1450, Duplessy 1140, Sombart 4398, Vlack 1-i.** Fine, the peripheral legends mostly strong on either side, including the date and mintmark. The countermark is somewhat weakly impressed on the obverse, and may actually be a counterfeit mark, which are rarer than the genuine ones. Some variegated color and light green suggests this may have been a burial piece, likely one of the coins dug up in Canada or the Louisiana territory. While the Paris Mint initially handled the countermarking of old billon douzains, it is likely that most (or even all) of the French mints in operation in 1640 did some of the work as well, as there were an immense number of old coins to be countermarked. These issues were produced under the Edict of June, 1640, which authorized the countermark to be applied to billon issues and they were made legal tender at a value of 15 Deniers, which was higher than the value of the billon alloy. Breen notes that these were nicknamed “gray coin,” “French sole mark,” “sou mark” and “black dogge.” These were later made legal tender in French Canada, by Edict of November 24, 1672, but at an even further inflated value of 20 Deniers. While the countermarks were supposed to be applied only to old French billon issues, it is unsurprising that a few similar-appearing billon coins of the era would be caught up and countermarked; this includes two Papal States issues (from Avignon and Carpentras), coins from Brabant in the Spanish Netherlands, billon issues from the semi-autonomous region of Dombes; there are even a couple of British silver groats that were mistakenly countermarked with the fleur-de-lys stamp. The earliest host coins are all quite rare, and while the later issues of Henri III and IV make up the majority of known survivors with this countermark, these can be collected by date and mintmark for the host coin, something very popular with American collectors! This is only.....\$175

*Robert Vlack lists fifteen different types of coins used as host planchets for this issue, the earliest being the 1380-1422 blanc guenars of Charles VI. A few other coinage types have since been added to that list, including the three listed as unreported (all have all been located, though all are rare). Also finally found were countermarks on Louis XIII coinage which Walter Breen listed as the major undertype, but which was completely unknown to Vlack. Several collectors are pursuing these issues not only by the major undertype, but also by date, mintmark and even variety within the various undertypes, especially those of Henry II, Henry III, Charles X and Henry IV which have a wide range of dates and mintmarks used as host coins*



**A Recoined Sol BARELY Overstruck on a 1550 Henri II Douzain**  
***The Host Coin FAR Stronger than the Overstrike!***



**20. 1693-M [Toulouse Mint] Sol de 15 Deniers, Gadoury 92. Very Fine** or so, the host coin weakly overstruck on a 1550 Douzain aux Croissants of Henri II, uncertain mint for the host coin. A really amazing piece, there is far more of the older coin of Henri II visible than of the Recoined Sol – but there is enough there to securely place the date and mintmark, though it takes a lot of patience to find them! One wonders how the piece would have been accepted as the increased 15 Denier rate in circulation when a contemporary would have been hard pressed to see the overstrike at all – or why somewhere along the line it wasn't re-recoined with a better strike! In any event it is one of the more visually stunning of the recoined sol types that we have seen, and was in this cataloguer's personal collection for a couple decades. It is UNLISTED in Gadoury as being over one of the large "antique" host coins that would have been in circulation nearly 150 years by the time it was overstruck with these new dies. Re-coining old billon sols was more cost-effective than melting them down, and the re-coining elevated the value of worn-out billon coins from the 12 deniers of a douzain to the 15 deniers of a sol. While this increase of 25% in value was literally the creation of free money for the French Crown, much of that was used to pay war expenses in North America and this profit was at least partially justified. All French mints struck recoined sols at least early on in the 1692-5 era, but by 1700 only a couple were still striking the design; the supply of old billon issues dried up, and within a few years most mints were using virgin billon planchets. The large output allows these to be collected by both date and mintmark, as well as on overstruck coins or virgin planchets – some of the older coins even show the 1640 countermark. While most of the overstruck coins do show some of the host, few show anywhere near the detail found on this one, making for a truly special and weird example of the type!.....\$300

*While not explicitly or solely intended for North American circulation, a very large number did find their way over to North America. In his article "Money of the 14<sup>th</sup> Colony: Nova Scotia (1711-1783)," which appeared in the December, 2003 issue of The Colonial Newsletter, Philip Mossman notes that archaeological excavation at Louisbourg revealed some 88 different examples of the 1692-1705 Sols of 15 Deniers. Vlack states that another Louisbourg dig found nearly 38% of the 177 billon coins (or 67 pieces) found were of the Recoined Sol type, showing their importance to the colonial North American economy at the time.*

***A Lovely 1710-D French Colonies 30 Deniers  
At less than Redbook value!***



**21. 1710-D [Lyon Min] French Colonies 30 Deniers. Vlack-2, W-11710. Rarity-2 About Uncirculated,** very little trace of wear from actual circulation. Boldly struck, the legends, date, mintmark and simple design details all razor sharp. Medium pewter gray color, with subdued luster around the letters and devices, the surfaces hard and free of damage or defect. This is a rare issue to find in high grades as they were intended to circulate, not sit in collector's cabinets. Struck on new planchets and with new designs, these were soon named *mousquetaires* due to the resemblance of the cross design on the reverse to the emblem of the royal musketeers. Struck at only two mints, Lyon and Metz, from 1709-1713 only and in just two denominations of 15 and 30 deniers, this was the first billon issue struck specifically for France's North American colonies. They were over-valued in terms of metal content, with the weight only slightly heavier than the Re coined Sols they were meant to replace; the Re coined Sols were valued at only 15 deniers, half the value of the new coin. This overvaluation insured that most of the 15 and 30 Deniers coins stayed in North America and other French colonies, since no French merchant would accept them back at that valuation. Bob Vlack estimates that this coinage stayed in circulation for at least a century, and given the average grade of most survivors today this is not unreasonable. Vlack also notes some of the fluctuations in valuation of this coin, which soared to 36 deniers in 1720 – which may have caused some of the original mintage to return to France. By the time the Sous Marques billon coinage began in 1738 these earlier 30 deniers were only worth 18 deniers, essentially the value of their metal at that point. Listed in both the Whitman *Encyclopedia* and the *Redbook*, this is a French Colonies type that every colonial collection should include! This very pretty AU specimen is priced well under the *Redbook* valuation for an average AU at only.....\$375



**A Sharp 1722/1-H French Colonies Nine Deniers**  
**Rarity-6 Variety**



**22. 1722/11-H Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.7-C.2, W-11835. Rarity-6. Very Fine.** An attractive example of this copper issue, the first reasonably successful coinage in that metal specifically for the French North American colonies (the 1717-Q issues could not be deemed a success in any way, accounting for their extreme rarity today); it is one of just three coinage types covered in Syd Martin's 2015 work on French Colonies coinages, and is indisputably part of the North American colonial series. Generally well struck, the legends are full, though the tops of some letters on the obverse are off the planchet as centered; the date is full with traces of the original "1" at the lower left of the last digit, the H mintmark below is bold. Pleasing lighter brown and mottled autumnal hues, the surfaces with some minor roughness that is typical for the issue, and the expected light marks from circulation. Late state of the reverse die, with a large cud at the N of FRANCOISES and failure at the center. The 9 Deniers were roughly the same size as the Half Sol coinage struck under John Law just a year previously, which was equal in value to just 6 Deniers. This meant the 1721-2 9 Deniers issue was overvalued by 50% in relation to French coinage, a much higher percentage than in the past, which made Canadians reluctant to accept the coin. We know that these arrived in North America in May, 1723 when they were made legal tender in what is now Biloxi, Mississippi, where they were used to pay troops and in company stores. But, because of their overvaluation, they circulated at a discount, and just a year later the Crown officially lowered their value to a more realistic 6 Deniers. At this level they seem to have been embraced by the populace (though this may have something to do with the fact that the penalty for not taking them at this value involved whipping and branding). Struck in just two years, 1721 and 1722, and at just two mints for the first year (Rouen and La Rochelle) and just La Rochelle mint the following year, this is a very short type set to collect, even with the addition of this 1722/1 overdate. Syd Martin detailed almost 90 different die varieties, which gives the more serious collector a way to go deep into a series where very rare varieties trade at just a small premium over type coinage! Very few of this type seem to have been saved by contemporary collectors, which is reflected in pricing for the type in the Whitman *Encyclopedia*: while a reasonable \$275 in Fine, the valuation jumps nearly fivefold to \$1,200 in VF. A perfect example of the overdate type or this rare variety, at much less than current book value.....\$350

## A 1724-T SILVER ECU FROM THE TREASURE SHIP *LE CHAMEAU*



**23. 1724 T [Nantes Mint] 87. Silver Ecu aux 8 L. Breen 383, Gadoury 320. Rarity-6 or so. Extremely Fine**, a piece that is impossible to really grade as these were all Uncirculated when they were loaded aboard the ship *Le Chameau* ["The Camel"], but spending the better part of two and a half centuries underwater has understandably eroded some detail. That said, this is a piece that is still extremely strong, the legends bold on either side, the all-important date and mintmark both sharp. The King shows some of his hair and face and much of the draped armor, while the reverse shows each of the alternating pairs of eight L's and crowns (which gives this large silver issue its name). Light silver and coppery russet in color, all of the silver raised from the Chameau had to be cleaned to remove encrustation (some even had coral or barnacles growing around clumps of coins), so none have what can be called natural color – and this kind of surface quality is exactly what collectors want, as it proves it to be a treasure ship coin. What collectors also want (but seldom find) are coins that are free of damage, and this fits admirably, as there are no marks or damage from its recovery. The 1724 issues are FAR RARER than their 1725-dated counterparts, and Breen lists just three different mints for this year having been included onboard the ill-fated ship, each of which he calls "Rare," but each could more truly be called Very Rare. Breen lists only the H, K and T mintmarks for this year, though he does state "other mints are possible. Provenance from the Chameau Treasure would suffice to establish American relevance." In his introduction to the phenomenal offering of this issue in the Stack's January, 1999 sale Michael Hodder notes that "the gold and silver coins that can be traced directly back to treasure found in the wreck of *Le Chameau* are as much colonial coins as are the 1670 Gloriam Regni issues and are more colonial than the popular Sous Marques. The entire history of *Le Chameau* and her doom prove that the coins she carried were meant to circulate in Canada." The Gadoury reference gives a more complete listing of the mints that struck the ecu denomination in 1724-5 (though not all these mints were found aboard the Chameau treasure ship). Curiously, the Ford sale had the largest offering of gold from the Chameau wreck, but not a single silver specimen, of any denomination. The examples in the Syd Martin collection were mainly from this cataloguer's personal collection, and all brought many multiples of what Syd paid for them; in typical Syd fashion he had two of this date and mintmark. This large silver issue would have vied with the Spanish 8 Reales as the largest silver coin most North American colonists would have seen. The first we have been able to offer in some time.....\$275



## John Ford's 1742-H French Colonies Sous Marques *A Contemporary Counterfeit Issue*



**24. 1722-H [La Rochelle Mint] French Colonies Sous Marques, Vlack 358, a CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT issue. Rarity-1. NGC Graded AU Details, Cleaned, and with the Ford provenance noted on the holder.** We disagree with the cleaned designation – the counterfeit issues have a different look to them than the genuine ones, and the silver wash applied to the planchet before striking would have been a different alloy; most of the contemporary counterfeits of this mint that exist in high grade have this same look. Regardless, this is a lovely representative example of this type, or the variety in particular. Well struck, the legends, date, mintmark and *differents* (the symbols for the engraver and mint master) are all bold around the peripheries. The central designs are a shade less sharp than the legends, and the whole coin is a lustrous silver that has whispers of light golden toning. To this cataloguer's mind – and he's formed two collections of the French Colonies coinages that each had over 800 pieces! – the billon Sous Marques offers so much collecting enjoyment. They are listed in the *Redbook*, there are a huge range of dates and mintmarks, something lacking on colonial British and early American coinage, and rare die varieties are available for little more than type coin money, something the collector on a budget should really appreciate. While struck in billon, a low grade silver, they are the only really affordable alternative to Massachusetts silver coins for those who want something other than copper in their colonial collection. Choice specimens can also be found for many date-and-mint combinations (though others exist only in well-circulated conditions), which strongly suggests that they were avidly collected at their time of issue, enough so that they remain quite affordable today. To this can be added the presence of a number of counterfeit issues, most of which are dealt with in the Vlack reference. As is the case with counterfeit British and Irish coppers which also circulated in North America, some varieties are extremely rare, others quite common, and some exist in high grade more than others. This is one of the more common counterfeits, but with the good design work and silvering would have certainly fooled many at the time of issue. Choice, with a great provenance, and just.....\$200

*From the January 2006 sale of John Ford's French Colonies, where this appeared as Lot 303. No lot ticket, but the Ford provenance is noted on the slab.*

**And the Rare Half Sous Marques Denomination**  
*Also ex John Ford Collection, NGC AU53*



**25. 1740-BB [Strasbourg Mint] French Colonies Half Sous Marques, Vlack 325, Rarity-1. NCG graded AU53 the Ford provenance noted on the slab,** though this coin could easily have graded a few points higher. Boldly struck, the legends, date, mintmark, and design details all razor sharp. Full silvering, toned to a golden color, with vibrant luster still showing through. Few marks from actual circulation (what appears to be a scuff on the reverse to the upper left of the central L is actually a diebreak), and with excellent eye appeal overall. This is one of the John J. Ford, Jr. specimens, appearing as Lot 101 of Stack's January 2006 auction of that portion of his fabulous collection. Ford, often under the guidance of Michael Hodder, quietly assembled a large and extremely choice collection of French Colonies issues, an area that had been virtually ignored by many of his peers (Bob Vlack being the single exception). When Ford's collection appeared it was the first major offering of the series in the US, and prices were phenomenal, with things selling at 5 or even 10 times higher than they had just a few years prior. The Half Sous Marques are many times rarer than the Sous denomination, struck in far fewer years and not at all mints (with the later years being struck at only a couple mints). Much like the farthing denomination of British copper, the diminutive size of these pieces meant they were easier to lose and they seem to have been less popular with the public; it would have been the smallest-sized coin in circulation in North America, a shade smaller than the Hibernia farthing and Rosa Americana halfpennies. A wonderful piece with great provenance – and price!.....\$350

*From the January 2006 sale of John Ford's French Colonies, where this appeared as Lot 101. No lot ticket, but the Ford provenance is noted on the slab.*

**A HIGH GRADE DENOMINATION TYPE SET WITH THE FORD PROVENANCE:  
 TAKE BOTH THE SOUS MARQUES AND HALF SOUS MARQUES OFFERED  
 ABOVE FOR JUST \$500, 10% OFF THE INDIVIDUAL PRICES.**



**A Pleasing Condition Census 1785 Connecticut, Miller 3.1-L  
From New Netherland's famous 60<sup>th</sup> Sale, likely ex Virgil Brand**



**26. 1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.1-L, W-2325. High Rarity-4. Choice Very Fine.** A well-struck and pleasing example of a very scarce variety, which we think is more difficult to find than the 3.2-L, though both carry the same rarity rating. The legends are full on either side, the individual letters strong, the TO of AUCTORI just a shade weaker than the rest. The date is bold, fully on the planchet, and with a complete row of denticles beneath. Excellent design detail, the obverse face bold, showing all the detail in the eyes and lips, the hair a bit flat – if this detail was just marginally sharper the coin would have merited a full EF grade. The reverse figure has strong detail in the branch, and the globe she sits upon shows all the lines within. Pleasing light chocolate brown, the surfaces mostly hard and with a good amount of gloss. Specialists know that the 1785-dated Connecticut coppers often come plagued with planchet flaws – it was the first year of coinage, and the mint literally learned as they went along. This specimen has two small flaws, both at the edge, which touch no design or legend, and is nicely free of the often-disfiguring flaws on the actual surfaces of either side. No real marks or damage from circulation save for a tiny rim tick at the lower obverse. This example is from the famous 60<sup>th</sup> sale of New Netherlands Coin Company, a sale that bibliophile John Adams rates an A+ for its outstanding colonial coins, many of which came through the collections of F. C. C. Boyd, Virgil Brand, and others. This example was Lot 320, paired with a Miller 3.3-F.3 which was from the Dr. Hall collection, via the Brand holdings, and as the auction firm wouldn't mix coins from different consignors in a single lot, it is likely this example was also a Brand coin. There are a few nice examples out there, including the Newman coin which was called AU when it sold in 2014 for just shy of \$10,000 and then slabbed (with the provenance lost) as a full Uncirculated when it appeared in Heritage's April 2018 sale and again in the 2019 C4 sale – oddly bringing 1/3 the price as an Unc than it did as an AU! The Ford coin was technically AU, but on a very flawed planchet, and was downgraded to Choice EF when it appeared in the Partrick sale, and the Robert Martin coin was a flawed EF. This Choice VF is a Condition Census level example, free of the surface flaws of the Martin and Ford coins, and with choice color and surfaces, and it has a provenance back to one of the legendary sales of Connecticut coppers. It is also priced right at just.....\$900

*Accompanied by a typed envelope giving the purchase information of the piece from the New Netherlands auction (and we can supply an original example of the auction catalogue if you don't have it). The typed envelope shows this to be ex Phillip W. Keller collection.*

**The Very Rare 1786 Miller 5.2-H.1**  
*The Neil Rothschild specimen*



**27. 1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.2-H.1, W-2545. Rarity-6. Fine overall,** the obverse weaker than the reverse as always found. This was the Neil Rothschild specimen, and appeared in the January 2021 sale of his collection after his untimely death. It was described there as “The obverse is considerably weaker (worn out die) while the reverse would grade F15 or a bit better. Slightly glossy chocolate and olive brown with lighter brown toning on the devices. The planchet is covered with fine granularity on all but the highpoints which are nearly smooth. No verdigris, and the only contact mark is a minor rim bruise at the A in AUCTORI. Later die state with swelling and weakness on the obverse. The legends on the obverse are weak; the date and legends on the reverse are easily readable but the top of INDE is off the planchet. Weight 116.0 grains. *Ex (possibly) Bowers & Merena 1/1989:25.*” This type of strike is typical for the variety, usually appearing a grade weaker or with a compromise grade – here the obverse looks close to Fine, while the reverse is fully of the VF level, as can be seen in the bold branch and drapery on the seated figure. A legitimately rare variety, the majority of specimens known are in very low grade, though there are a handful of nice ones – the finest being an Unc in the ANS collection, while Syd Martin’s Choice EF, ex Dr. Hal-Brand-Taylor, is likely the next nicest known, and Ted Craige’s EF and the Ford-Tannenbaum EF after that. The Norweb-Perkins-Partrick coin was graded Fine and this example is a bit sharper on the obverse and free of the heavy contact marks on that coin; when that coin was offered in the Perkins sale in 2000 it was catalogued as much higher in the Condition Census than it actually was, and realized just shy of \$5,000 – two decades later when sold as part of Partrick’s collection it brought just a bit over \$500, certainly a roller-coaster ride in terms of value for that specimen! While most of Partrick’s coins did quite well, there were a few that sold at considerably less than he paid, usually varieties that had dropped in rarity; but the sad passing of a number of Connecticut copper collectors in the last decade has meant the supply-demand balance is a bit out of whack. And that means it is an excellent time to buy rarer varieties in solid collectible grade, while they are on something of fire sale prices – this is a situation that will not last, especially with the publication of Randy Clark’s excellent new book on the series! This coin, which we think is nicer overall than the Partrick coin, will cost you even less money.....\$300

*Accompanied by the lot ticket from the Rothschild auction.*



*Ted Craige's 1786 Miller 5.7-H.1 with great detail  
and a cool natural hole at the center of the planchet!*



**28. 1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.7-H.1, W-2610. Low Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. Very Fine**, design details high in that grade level. This is one of the Ted Craige specimens of the variety and appeared as Lot 54 of Stack's Bowers June 2013 sale of the remainder of his collection, where it was described as:

**VF-30.**126.0 grains. Excellent detail remains on even steel gray surfaces, which are finely granular on both sides. A planchet void at central obverse actually allows light to pass through -- a natural hole -- though the flaw is quite small. The rim is a bit crude at base of obverse, as struck. The January 2013 Craige specimen realized \$1,116.

*Provenance: From the Ted L. Craige Collection. Paper envelope with attribution notation included.*

A very sharply struck example, displaying the often-problematic planchets found on the first two years of Connecticut copper coinage. The obverse bust is bold and is mostly of EF level, the lower part of the reverse figure weaker, so a high-end VF grade is appropriate. Legends are full on either side, the date weak but at least partially discernible. While a very scarce variety, it is no longer the Low R-6 it was when sold with the Craige collection, and is a Low R-5 today, with most of the ones new to the collecting community being lower grade examples, often grounders. There are a handful of high-end pieces, including several AU coins, the last of which sold being the Syd Martin coin, which brought \$4,800 last year. While likely not making the Condition Census, this piece compares favorably with the Ford coin which was EF but very rough. This kind of natural planchet flaw that goes all the way through the coin is very cool, and unusual in the series. This piece sold cheap at \$225 a decade ago, especially given the strength of detail, and the provenance to one of the fabled collections of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. We are pleased to offer it for the same price today.....\$225

*Accompanied by the original lot ticket from the 2013 Stack's Bowers sale, as well as Ted Craige's original handwritten envelope, where this variety is noted as being R4 – this was based on the 6-point scale that Miller used, not the 8-point scale used today.*



*A Neat Double Struck 1787 Miller 16.2-NN.1  
From the Taylor and Tanenbaum Collections*



**29. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 16.2-NN.1, W-3005. Rarity-5. Fine,** some areas a bit weaker as stuck, this mostly due to the coin being noticeably DOUBLE STRUCK, which is most obvious with a second CO below those letters in CONNEC on the obverse and UCT above those letters in AUCTORI as well, though it is also visible on the reverse at the branch and arm, amongst other areas. Golden tan with some iridescence, suggesting the coin was cleaned at some point in the past, but if so it was more than half a century ago. Large Painted Die Variety in the left obverse field, in an unknown hand. Struck medal turn instead of the usual coin turn found on the series. Evenly worn, the double struck nature certainly not hindering the coin in its circulation, but nicely free of any major marks or defects. A notable error, which graced a couple of the more important collections of the modern era, this was lot 7433 of the March 1987 auction of the Frederick B. Taylor collection, with an appearance in the August Mid-American Rare Coin Auction of that same year, and then into the Steve Tanenbaum collection, sold by Stack's in January 2012, with this coin appearing as lot 7167. Double struck examples seem to be quite rare on these large letter obverse types of Miller 16-29. A very noticeable error, and with the provenance to a couple outstanding collections, this coin will easily find a home in another at just.....\$450

*In Steve Tannenbaum's original handwritten envelope, with the lot tickets from the 2012 sale of his collection and the 1987 Mid-American auction mentioned; no lot ticket from the Taylor collection, which was likely discarded when the coin was consigned to Mid-American. The Tannenbaum envelope notes the piece was purchased from Mike Ringo, who purchased it in that Mid-American auction.*

**The Very Rare Miller 28-n**  
*Not in Garrett, Hessberg, Oechsner, Ford, Newman, Keller or  
the Robert Martin Collections!*



**30. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 28-n, W-3135. Rarity-6. Draped Bust Left. PCGS Graded Good Details, Bent,** which is a bit harsh in terms of grade. The detail on the bust and branch are far closer to the Fine level, though there are weaker areas on the obverse hair and the globe the reverse figure sits upon. Dark brown fields with lighter devices, the surfaces with a touch of light roughness, but not disturbingly so, and with few major marks from circulation. In the slab it is impossible to see any bend in the planchet, so we are unsure of the accuracy of that statement as well. Realistically, a coin that should be liberated from its plastic coffin and appreciated for what it is – and it is a decent example of a surprisingly rare variety, one that we suspect is rarer than the rating it currently carries. Indeed, we have not had an example of this variety in ANY condition in the last 20 years – and we specialize in the Connecticut copper series! Further evidence of the rarity of the variety – and the near impossibility of finding a nice one – is offered in the Stack's Bowers archives, which show this and just four other examples sold by that firm since 2010! The nicest of these was that Tanenbaum coin which graded Fine and brought \$5,175 in January 2012, while one graded VG brought \$2,070 two years earlier. The Heritage archives paint an even bleaker picture – the sole example they offered for sale was the Partrick coin, earlier ex Picker, Taylor, and George Perkins collections, a coin which only graded VG. Considering Taylor, Perkins, and Partrick all had ample time to upgrade, the fact that they all owned a single coin says a lot. The list of famous collections of Connecticut coppers that lacked this variety is telling – Garrett, Hessberg, Oechsner, Ford, Newman, Keller, Robert Martin, and many more. The finest example of the variety known appears to be the VF Dr. Hall coin which is now in the ANS collection, with the Condition Census falling to the Fine Tanenbaum and Twin Leaf collection coins. We suspect there may be just a dozen or slightly more known of the variety, which would give it a High R-6 to Low R-7 rating, making it one of the rarer varieties in the Obv. 20 series. This is a variety where the specialist simply cannot afford to be too picky – there just aren't going to be any nice ones available (and if one does show up it would likely bring in the mid four figures today). This is a perfectly acceptable example of a very rare variety, available at a bargain price.....\$400

## The Very Rare Miller 33.21-Z.13 *None in the Ford Collection!*

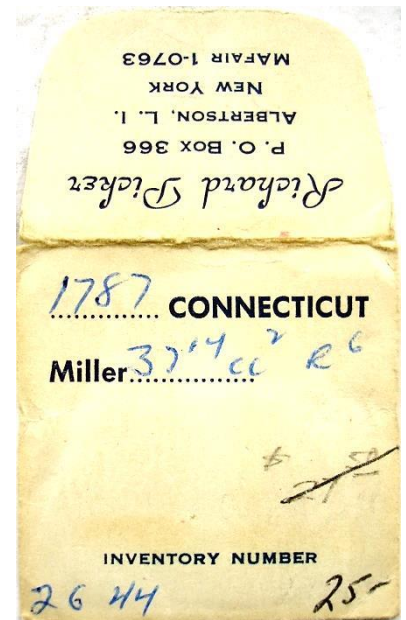


**31. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 33.21-Z.13, W-3675. Rarity-6. Draped Bust Left. Very Fine**, a generally well-struck and pleasing example of a legitimately rare variety. As is the case on almost known examples of the variety, the bottom of the obverse and top of the reverse are very weak, with loss of detail there. The rest of the coin is quite strong. The obverse legend is full, the tops of AUCTORI tight against the left edge of the planchet, CONNEC is bold, and the obverse bust shows ample hair and facial features. On the reverse, INDE is bold, while ETLIB is tight against the right edge, the first letter of that word partially lost to a planchet flaw there, while the date is mostly on the planchet, and the drapery, branch, and shield detail are all strong. Nice medium brown with lighter tan devices, the surfaces hard. There is a small spot of green above the branch arm on the reverse, and a few tiny flecks of the same color on the lower reverse – these can likely be removed by someone skilled in such matters, though the reverse one would leave a small pit in that area. While the Anderson-Gleckler coin we offered on our Fixed Price List #23 was sharper than this, that was the first of the variety we had been able to offer in any grade for several years. There are only a couple truly nice examples of the variety which have appeared at public auction. The Hessberg coin was nearly Uncirculated, and the Floyd Starr-Donald Partrick coin was a lovely AU, both of which had the same striking weakness at the lower obverse and upper reverse, this certainly due to heavily failing dies, the obverse nearly shattered. The Taylor-Tannenbaum coin in Stack's Bowers January 2012 sale was sharper than this one, but had a couple dents and spots, as well as the same striking weakness, and the same firm had a harshly cleaned EF in their 2013 ANA auction. The Twin Leaf coin was a very rough VF, and the Perkins coin was a heavily scratched VF which still managed to bring \$1,150 when it was sold again by Stack's in September 2005. This variety was notably missing from the Ford collection, as well as the more recent Robert Martin collection. The Canfield coin, permanently off the market in the ANS collection, is a very pleasing EF. After this group, the grades of extant specimens fall dramatically, with most known grading Fine or less, and usually with rough surfaces. A very pleasing example of a very tough variety, offered at far less than lesser coins have sold for in the past – a situation that cannot remain the same with the presence of just a few more collectors pursuing this fascinating series!.....\$550

*The consignor's notes on the envelope accompanying this coin show that it was purchased in 2009 for \$1,750.*



## The Rare Miller 37.14-cc.2, ex Ted Craige Collection With a Richard Picker Envelope from the 1960s



**32. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 37.14-cc.2, W-4190. Rarity-6. Draped Bust Left, ETLIR reverse. Fine or so,** some areas of the obverse weaker than the grade level, as often the case for the variety, while the reverse is solidly in the Fine category. The obverse legend is full, the first and final letter weaker than the rest but visible, while the obverse bust shows some detail in the hair and face, the lower drapery weakened by an area of marked die failure there, with another area at the upper left of this side as well. On the reverse, the DE of INDE is mostly gone, while ET-LIR is bold, as are the first two digits of the date though the final two are weak and only partially visible. Very good detail in the shield, drapery, and distinct hairstyle on the seated figure, with the scroll-like ornament between her head and the liberty pole bold. Dark brown with lighter tan devices, the surfaces with faint roughness, the obverse with a raised patch of dark green in front of the face which can be removed easily enough by someone skilled in such matters. A rarer variety, and one that doesn't exist in too nice of grades. The primary Ted Craige coin was a weak VF that was called possibly Condition Census quality, and the only two distinctly nicer ones we recall seeing were the EAC '75 and Perkins coins, the latter EF but finely rough, selling in the 2000 auction of the Perkins collection for \$3,220. The Ford coin, ex Miller, was graded just Good (though a bit nicer, probably a VG today), and the Tanenbaum coin was of the VF level but very heavily scratched. At the time of the 2000 Perkins sale it was noted that only 20 specimens had been seen in all grades combined, and though a few more have come out, they have been lower-grade and/or problematic pieces. This particular example is from the Ted Craige collection, sold as part of lot 90 in the June 2013 sale of the remainder of his colonials, and is accompanied by the original 1960s Richard Picker envelope that Craige bought this in, with Craige getting a 10% discount from the \$27.50 marked price (and don't we all wish we could go back in time, with a pocket full of cash!). Another variety that the specialist cannot afford to be too picky on for grade! This example has nice detail, especially for the late state of the obverse, and the added bonus of the Picker envelope – and is available for about what it would have sold for in the 1990s!.....\$250

**A Pleasing AUCTOPI/ETIIB Double Error**  
*Ex Keller collection, with a provenance to 1954*



**33. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 42-kk.2, W-4245. Low Rarity-5. Draped Bust Left, AUCTOPI, ET IIB. Very Fine**, a pleasing example of this major type coin, boasting a legend cutting error on each side – the obverse reading AUCTOPI instead of AUCTORI, the reverse reading ETIIB instead of ETLIB, with both of these errors particularly bold on this coin. The date at the bottom of the reverse is mostly full, weaker than the legends but all visible. The obverse bust is a trifle flat on the drapery, but this is how the variety usually comes, and there is enough drapery, hair, and facial detail to justify the full VF grade, while the reverse shows a bold branch and shield, and solid detail in the seated figure's dress. Very attractive dark brown fields with lighter than devices, giving a nice two-tone look to the piece. There is a small striation hidden in the obverse bust's hair, and the expected trivial light marks from circulation on either side, none disturbing, and overall the coin has a very nice look. This was the Phillip W. Keller example of the variety, and is accompanied by his original envelope showing its purchase nearly 70 years ago from Hollinbeck Coins, the forerunner of Kagin's today. Always popular as a naked-eye type coin, there are only a couple higher-grade examples of the variety, such as the Old New England coin, sold by Stack's Bowers at the 2020 ANA, an AU coin that had been off the market for nearly a century and was completely unknown to collectors, who certainly appreciated the quality and bid it up to \$2,280, while Partrick's lesser AU brought \$1,980 when sold last year. Robert Martin's EF brought \$1,560 in the weakest market for the series in half a century. Most collectors have had to settle for lesser grades – the EAC '75 and Taylor coins were F/VF, Eric Newman had a Fine that was from the Colonel Green collection, and generally a VF is about the best a collector can hope to acquire, save those rare instances when a major collection hits the auction block – and when that happens, bidding wars usually ignite! One of the prettiest examples we've had in the last two decades.....\$750

*Accompanied by Keller's original envelope, as described and depicted above.*



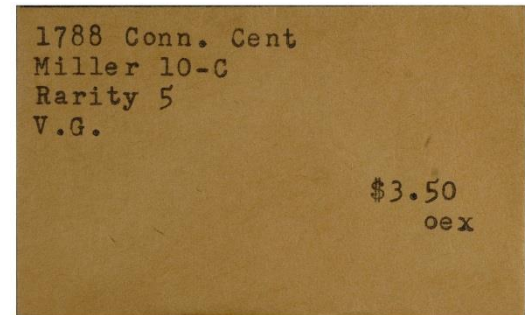
*An Affordable 1788 Miller 3-B.1, High Rarity-5*



**34. 1788 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3-B.1, W-4410. High Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Right. Very Good to Fine**, a few details in the higher grade level, a few others weaker as struck. The legends are full on either side, the individual letters ranging from weak to strong, but all there. The date is also full, completely on the planchet and with a full row of denticles beneath. Olive brown, the surfaces with a faint but even roughness to them, but without any major marks or damage from circulation, which helps the eye-appeal on a well-used coin. This variety is usually found overstruck on Nova Constellatio coppers, but we see no trace of any undertype on this specimen. A rare variety, at the time of the Perkins sale in 2000 Robert Martin was able to note just 38 examples in all grades; though a few more have come to light since then it is still comfortably in the High R-5 category. There are a handful of truly choice examples, including the amazing Uncirculated Tannenbaum coin (at nearly \$50,000 way back in 2012!) and the Unc in Oechsner and Partrick (at nearly \$40,000 in 2020), as well as AUs in both the Robert Martin and Anton collections. These, of course, are expensive, and out of the reach of most collectors. But luckily there are more affordable examples, usually in the VG-Fine range, and mostly with lightly rough planchets. The distinct obverse bust style ties this variety to Machin's Mills, and they were likely coined in the year after the date they bear. The hair style and the use of 6-pointed stars also links them to the Ryder 27 Vermont coppers, which were also coined at Machin's Mills. Always popular because the look is so different from the standard Draped Bust Left types, the Machin's tie also adding interest. Eric Newman's nice Fine brought nearly \$750 in 2014, and we've seen few offerings of affordable-grade examples of the variety in the last decade or so. With the lack of post-strike damage, this is a perfect coin for the collector on a budget – this is actually available in 2023 for less than half of what it sold for in 1995!.....\$200



**ERIC NEWMAN'S 1788 MILLER 10-C**  
*With his original envelope and lot ticket*  
*Painted Die Variety, ex Canfield*



**35. 1788 Connecticut Copper. Miller 10-C, W-4505. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. Very Fine,** though in an NGC slab where this was graded Fine-15, which we think too low given the strength of design detail on either side, which is easily of the VF level, with many details high in that grade range! The Heritage description of the coin in their May 2014 sale of this portion of Newman's collection was a bit terse:

**1788 COPPER Connecticut Copper, Mailed Bust Left Fine 15 NGC. M. 10-C, W-4505, R.5.** 115.7 grains. A pleasing example with medium to dark brown toning on the smooth surfaces, showing minimal marks expected for the grade. Two small dents are noted at the lower right reverse. *Ex: Frederick A. Canfield; Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society.*

The legends are full on either side, the tops of a couple letters weaker than the rest, but visible, but most individual letters strong, the date is full on the reverse. The obverse bust shows full detail in the armor mailing, and strong facial and hair features, while the seated figure on the reverse is atop a bold globe, with ample drapery detail, sharp face and hair, and a bold branch – if you want to consider this to be “Fine” level sharpness, I will happily buy all that you have at Fine-level prices! The two old dents mentioned are visible, but not detracting, and did not prevent the coin from receiving a straight grade by NGC. Painted Die Variety in the left obverse field is in the hand of Frederick Canfield, though without the “M” in the right field that he usually did – this perhaps done prior to the Miller listing being published. There are a couple very choice examples of the variety – Ford's Unc at \$12,650 in 2005, the Taylor-Partrick Unc which went cheap at \$5,040, and Syd Martin's AU at \$5,040 earlier this year, while the Hall-Brand-Oechsner was also AU. This makes for enough high grade examples to satisfy the top collectors, so nice VF's are still quite affordable.....\$750

*Still in the special Newman slab, accompanied by his original envelope and the printed lot ticket from the sale of his collection. Though undergraded, the slab is likely worth retaining, given the special Newman insert (though we would break it out and keep the insert!).*

**1788 Miller 16.3-N, OVERSTRUCK ON A  
1787 MASSACHUSETTS COPPER, RYDER 1-B**

***The only example of this overstrike that is also counterstamped!***



**36. 1788 Connecticut Copper. Miller 16.3-N, W-4610. Rarity-2 for the variety, High Rarity-6 as Overstruck on a 1787 Massachusetts Cent, Ryder 1-B, an extremely rare contemporary counterfeit variety. Very Good or so, a difficult coin to grade since the overstrike and counterstamp both weakened details, but the coin overall is a cleanly and well-worn example that still shows a surprising amount of the Massachusetts undertype, with the eagle's right wing prominent at the upper right of the seated reverse figure. About half the legends are visible on either side, the obverse bust with some drapery and facial features, the reverse with a strong branch, other details on that side weakened from the overstrike. The obverse is counterstamped R. CURRV, the U and first R each notably double punched, this the only reported example of this overstrike with a counterstamp and made even cooler as such. Medium brown, the surfaces lightly but evenly rough, and with the expected light marks from a long circulation visible – clearly the fact that this coin displayed elements of two different states did not impede its circulation! This is the ONLY state coinage variety that uses a Massachusetts copper as a host coin – and always uses this variety, Ryder 1-B, which is a contemporary counterfeit struck at Machin's Mills, and extremely rare – the Ford-Partrick example of the Ryder 1-B Massachusetts variety brought \$42,300 when last sold! There are actually a few more overstrikes known than there are actual Ryder 1-B's not overstruck, and that kind of price point means that the overstrikes are the only way for most collectors to acquire an example of this Massachusetts copper variety. The Winter 2019 issue of *The C4 Journal* contained an article by this cataloguer on the four counterfeit Massachusetts copper varieties, with a deeper look at these Connecticut overstrikes, and is available on the Newman Numismatic Portal for free. In his 1992 book Phil Mossman noted 9 examples, and Randy Clark added another 4 to that list. This small number are chased by both CT and MA coppers, meaning prices are strong when the overstrike is sharp - \$9,600 for Partrick's Unc, \$5,040 for Anton's AU, and \$10,200 for Syd Martin's incredible ex-Ford coin, for instance. We offered one on our FPL #22 which sold quickly, with multiple orders. If you missed it, here is that rare second chance to add this overstrike to your collection, at under half what that coin brought.....\$500**



## ***A SHARP MARIS 6-D NEW JERSEY COPPER***



**37. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 6-D, W-5050. Rarity-2. Double Coulter, M-Shaped Ears. Choice Very Fine**, a lovely and well-struck example of this popular variety, with some details approaching the full EF grade, the reverse likely fully of that EF level. The legends are full, the individual letters all bold; the date is weaker as usual, though only the 8 is not visible. Strong design details on either side, the horse showing a bold eye and nostril, the distinct M-shaped ears sharp, and the plow below bold. The reverse is similarly strong, the wide shield showing all of the horizontal and vertical stripes within. Struck from a late state of both dies, the obverse with a half-dozen small die breaks in and around the plow handles, the reverse with a large break and cud at the base of the shield, extending in both directions. Chestnut brown, the surfaces mostly hard to the eye, with very few marks from actual circulation, and quite pleasing as such. While this variety normally strikes up well, it is often found on dark and rougher planchet stock – or with post-strike damage – and though common enough as a variety it is decidedly scarce in higher grades, and with great eye appeal. There are a couple Uncirculated examples out there, with the Condition Census rounded out by AU coins, with those pieces understandably sequestered in the finest collections around. Syd Martin's lovely EF brought \$2,640 last year – the same price that a gorgeous Choice AU from the Anton collection realized just three years earlier, underscoring just how popular the New Jersey copper series has become, and the rising price levels for choice coins and/or rare varieties! This example would make for a perfect example of the variety or type, and a very small upgrade would more than triple the price, so this makes for a good buy today at just.....\$750



**An AFFORDABLE Example of the Rare Maris 11-H**  
*A No Coulter Variety, ex Philip Keller and Ted Craige Collections*



**38. 1786 New Jersey copper. Maris 11-H, W-4775. Low Rarity-6. No Coulter type. Very Good/Fine**, though in an NGC slab where this is ludicrously graded AG details – the grade Keller gave to the piece in 1970 when he acquired it! The obverse is weaker than the reverse as usually seen, here with all but a few letters in the legend visible, though often only faintly so. Struck medal turn as always seen on the variety. The top of the horse's head is outlined, the neck weak which is also typical, while the plow below is sharp, clearly showing the lack of coulter on the plowshare. The reverse is stronger, with the legend full, the individual letters mostly sharp, and the distinct thin shield fully outlined, but not showing any of the stripes within. Russet brown, the surfaces lightly but evenly rough, though not horribly so. The planchet had a few light striae on the reverse, and the only manmade damage is a scratch through the horse's neck on the obverse. A coin that was in two major collections of the 1960s and early 1970s, purchased by Philip W. Keller from Ted Craige, right about the time the latter was looking to become a fulltime coin-dealer, a dream cut short by an early death the year after he sold this coin. Rated a High Rarity-6 until very recently, the variety remains rare, especially in higher grades. This variety usually sells well into the four and even five figures for examples in the Fine to Very Fine range. The Anton coin was a rough Fine, and sold for \$3,840 in 2019, while the Maris-Garrett-Partrick coin was Choice VF and brought \$24,000 last year. But lower-grade coins have also brought strong prices, such as the \$6,900 paid for a Fine in Stack's January 2007 auction, or the \$2,530 for a Good in the June 2010 auction by the same firm. While far from perfect, this is a most acceptable example, especially for the collector pursuing the series on a more limited budget. The attractive VF on our FPL #22 sold quickly, and with multiple orders. If you were disappointed there, we are pleased to offer another chance to fill this difficult hole in your collection, at well under half the price.....\$950

*Still in the NGC slab as pictured here, and accompanied by Philip W. Keller's original typed envelope, indicating that he purchased this specimen from Ted Craige in December 1970.*

*A Bridle Variety – Without the Bridle  
Sold for the Clem Schettino Family*



**39. 1786 New Jersey Copper. Maris 18-M, W-4890. Rarity-2. The Bridle Variety, here in an early die state. Fine overall,** the lower obverse weaker than the rest but, overall, the coin has nice detail. The obverse legend is full, the letters mostly strong, the date mostly gone; the reverse legend is full, with the letters all strong. The horse's head shows detail in the mane, while the reverse shield shows some of the shield lines. Dark russet brown with much lighter tan highlights, the surfaces have a light, uniform roughness to them. While likely a coin that spent a little time in the ground, it escaped turning too dark, and lacks the deep roughness often associated with grounders, and there aren't too many marks from actual circulation. This is the rarer early die state of this obverse, without the near-vertical break connecting the horse's snout to its chest, which gave it the "Bridle" nickname. It's no secret that New Jersey coppers have been the hottest series on the market – but it is still possible to get well-detailed, if problematic coins for bargain prices. This example was in the inventory of the late Clem Schettino, and is being sold for his family – they get the entire purchase price of the coin. In Clem's original handwritten envelope, with his name and address stamp on the back flip. Good detail, at a low price of just.....\$125

## A Sharp Maris 25-S *The Rarest of the S Reverse Varieties*



**40. 1786 New Jersey Copper. Maris 25-S, W-4980. Rarity-5, probably high in that rarity. Straight Plow Beam, Eye in Neck, Fine/Very Fine**, a fully VF or better coin that spent some time underground, affecting the surface quality a bit, but a piece that retains excellent design detail. The legends are full on either side, the individual letters all strong, save for the first letter on the reverse which is weaker, but visible, and the date is sharp on the obverse. The horse's head shows some detail in the eye, snout, and mane, while the plow below is strong. The reverse is bold, the shield with all the lines in it sharply defined. While a coin that was in the ground, it is nicely free of the very dark surfaces often found on such pieces, and is a medium olive brown with lighter tan highlights. The surfaces have a uniform light roughness, the obverse with near-vertical roughness, likely from that side being in wetter soil. No real manmade marks or damage, and a perfectly acceptable example of a rare variety. Indeed, the Maris 25-S is the rarest of the four varieties to share the "S" reverse and doesn't exist truly choice – the finest listed by Siboni is an EF, forever off the market in the New Jersey Historical Society collection. The rest of the census is made up of Choice VF and solid VF coins. The Betts-Garret-Taylor coin is the second finest in the Siboni census, called Choice VF there (but EF in Taylor and the 2009 C4 sale where it last appeared, realizing \$3,737.50 there). The Miller-Ryder-Boyd-Ford-Partrick coin brought \$5,280 in Marsh 2021 and was graded there as F15, but VF in the Siboni census, which seems the accurate grade. The "E Pluribus Unum" collection piece was graded VF, but highly striated and brought \$4,560 in November 2021. The Ford-Partrick specimen is a bit sharper than this, though with a lighter color and a "Who's Who" of previous owners. Syd Martin's weaker VG managed a bid of \$1,440 last year, showing just how difficult the variety is to find in even lower grades – and how popular it is, as well! This example is much stronger than the Martin coin, though with lesser surface quality – the tradeoff comes in price, and this sharp example is just.....\$950

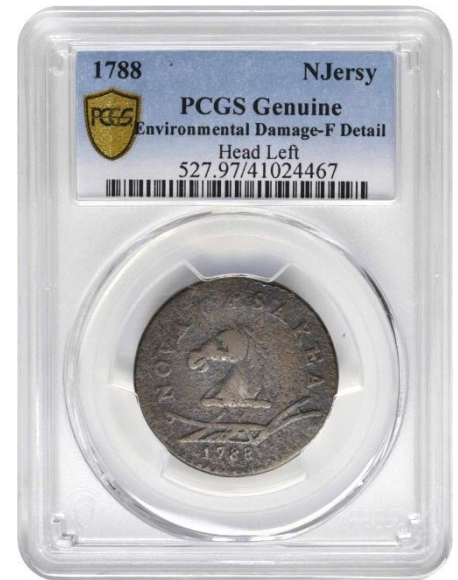


***Maris 43-d, a notably off-center example  
Sold for the Clem Schettino Family***



**41. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 43-d, W-5225. Rarity-1. No Sprig Above Plow, Bulbous Nose. Fine,** the reverse with detail approaching the full VF level. Struck notably off center towards 5 o'clock, which pushes the tops of REA of CAESAREA tight against the edge of the planchet, and the tops of UNUM on the reverse off the planchet. All the rest of the legends are strong on either side, the date only partially there. The horse shows some detail in the eye, snout, and mane, the plow below weaker as struck. The shield on the reverse has most of the lines visible within, the horizontal ones particularly strong. Medium olive brown, the reverse with some light verdigris and some newer scratches at the lower shield which will be less obtrusive when they tone down. The off-center strike is interesting because it allows for full obverse denticles at the upper left, and shows the clear edge of the die just beyond those denticles, something that could be useful for figuring out the exact diameter of this obverse die. Maris 43-d is a variety that has a number of different error strikes known, including multiple strikes – the coiners appear to have had more problems with the press than on other varieties in the series, for reasons unknown. The April 2023 sale of part of the Syd Martin collection contained a similar off-center, his just a bit closer to the 6 o'clock position, a sharper-but-cleaned VF that brought \$432. Certainly the most appealing of the Maris 43-d errors is the incredible double struck piece that was also in Syd Martin's collection, ex Spiro, Oechsner and Anton, which brought \$6,600 last year. While the present coin will not compete with that in terms of "WOW," it is a noticeable error, at a very low price. Another piece that was in the inventory of the late Clem Schettino, and is being sold for the benefit of his family – who get the entire purchase price, I am taking no commission or fee for helping to sell this material for my old, much-missed, friend. This has to be cheap at.....\$125

## *A Very Nicely Detailed Maris 50-f Head Left*



**42. 1788 New Jersey Copper. Maris 50-f, W-5475. Rarity-3. Head Left. PCGS graded Fine Details--Environmental Damage.** This is the Bill Gleckler coin, earlier in the collection of Joel Geoffrey. It appears as Lot 1189 of Stack's Bowers June 2021 sale where it was illustrated and described as follows:

A sharp and handsome Head Left, despite scattered pitting on its medium brown surfaces. The central obverse device stands out with remarkable relief, the date and legends are complete, and few post-striking marks are noted save for an old scrape on the shield. An attractive and well balanced piece despite its surface flaws.

*Provenance: From the Bill Gleckler Collection. Earlier ex (Stack's) sale of the Joel Geoffrey Collection, January 2011 New York Americana, lot 5980.*

The obverse is certainly closer to a full VF grade, with the horse's head bold, showing most of the mane, eye and nostril detail and we suspect that if the surfaces were smoother this would have merited a 20 slab grade at least. We note that the plowshare here is formed from a sword, alluding to a verse in the Bible, a feature found only on this and the Maris 51-g obverse. While the Maris 50-f is the most common of the three Head Left varieties it is the one that is seldom found in too high of grade – indeed the Siboni census has just one Unc, one EF and the rest of the census is made up of VF coins – and those VF's are darned expensive today! Anton's brought \$6,600 in 2019 and \$9,000 when the same coin was sold in the 2022 Syd Martin sale, the Norweb-Partrick Choice VF brought \$14,400 and Ted Craige's even choicer VF brought \$15,275 way back in 2013! If your pockets are not quite that deep, but you still yearn for a sharply struck and well-detailed coin, then this may be the perfect choice – just a tad nicer surface quality will more than double the price. An attractive example of a major and always popular type coin in one of the hottest series in the entire colonial field right now. A good buy at just.....\$1,500



**Maris 56-n Camel Head**  
***Overstruck on a 1775 Machin's Mills – A Very Rare Host Coin***  
***Ex Syd Martin Collection***



**43. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 56-n, W-5310. Rarity-1. Camel Head--Overstruck on a 1775 Machin's Mills Halfpenny, Vlack 4-75A. PCGS Graded Good-6, though clearly better than that.** Syd Martin graded this coin Fine 18 on his envelope, which we feel is far more accurate. This appeared as Lot 90122 of the April 2023 portion of the Stack's Bowers offering of Syd's coins, where it was described as "a neat piece with bold undertype from a fairly scarce date of Machin's Mills halfpenny that was used as a planchet for this Camel head New Jersey. Most of GEORGIUS and BRITAN are visible at the lower obverse and upper reverse as well as the exergue line from the Machin's reverse at PLUR. Fairly smooth surfaces, retoned to light olive and reddish-brown from an old cleaning." There is an amazing amount of the host coin's legend around the periphery, which allowed for an attribution of the Machin's Mills host, something often difficult to discern on overstrikes. Most (if not all) of the variety come overstruck on other coins – a cheap and ready-made source of planchet stock, especially post-1788 when the Coppers Panic would have made anything but New Jersey coppers difficult to circulate. A fascinating variety in that while most contemporary counterfeit New Jersey coppers are quite rare, the Maris 56-n is perhaps the most common variety in the entire series, which means that counterfeit dies lasted far longer than those engraved by the official mints. This is even more shocking as most/all of the variety was struck over other coins, literally every copper coin that was in circulation in North America at the time: many different varieties of Connecticut copper (the most common undertype, of all dates including 1788 showing the variety was not struck in the date it bears), Vermont coppers (both landscape and bust style), Machin's Mills halfpence (several different dates, including 1776), Nova Constellatio coppers, Nova Eboracs, counterfeit Irish and English halfpence (both George II and George III), and even an incredible example struck over an extremely rare 1787 George Clinton cent! Coins with unusual undertypes are hotly pursued by specialists; this is the only one we have records of over a Vlack 4-75A Machin's host, and is especially nice since the undertype is so bold. A coin that the specialist will enjoy, just as Syd did.....\$550

*Accompanied by Syd Martin's handwritten envelope where, as noted, this was graded Fine 18.*



**Syd Martin's Maris 74-bb, a High Rarity-5 Running Fox Variety  
*Missing from Norweb, Tannenbaum and other large collections!***



**44. 1788 New Jersey Copper. Maris 74-bb, W-5515. High Rarity-5. Horse's Head Right, Running Fox Before Legend, Ghost Coulter. Very Good**, some details sharper. This is one of the Syd Martin duplicate coins, and appeared as Lot 4203 of the 2017 C4 convention sale, where it was described as:

VG-8. 109.0 grains. The surfaces are extensively porous, weakening much of the lettering and even parts of the central devices, though tantalizing outlines of the horse's mane and the delineated shield lines on the reverse belie the fact that this coin is sharper than the given grade. The Running Fox is essentially invisible, relegated to a ghosted outline in the coin's textured surface. Though rated only R-5+, the Maris 74-bb is the rarest of the Running Fox varieties save 76-cc; it is missing from many prominent collections, notably our recent sales of the SLT and Ted Craige Collections, as well as the Norweb Collection we offered three decades ago. The Condition Census is made up of coins in the VF range, meaning that even this porous VG will be a prize for the collector needing the 74-bb die marriage, which seems rarer than its given rarity rating connotes.

*Provenance: From the Syd Martin Collection.*

The variety is seldom seen in any grade, and is usually one of the last added to a collection as it moves past the 90-variety count and approaches the storied 100-variety mark. It is also a variety that is unknown truly choice – the entire Condition Census is made up of just VF coins, and the Maris plate coin for this obverse die was only a VG. The two Choice VF's that have appeared at auction recently are the Ford-Anton coin in the November 2019 "E Pluribus Unum" sale, and the Spiro-Oechsner coin in the November 2021 Partrick sale, and each of them brought \$18,000 in spirited bidding. But even lesser grade examples are highly sought after. Syd Martin's other example, the dark and very rough Ford-Scherff VF brought \$3,600 last year and the rough VG Shaw coin brought \$1,645 in March 2017. The variety was missing completely from such notable NJ offerings as Norweb, Tannenbaum, and Ted Craige. A chance for the collector to get a decent example of a legitimately rare variety, with a wonderful provenance at less than half what the Shaw coin brought 6 years ago.....\$750

*Accompanied by Syd Martin's handwritten envelope.*

**The Legendary Ryder-5 Vermont Copper**  
**A cast type, dug in Worcester County, Massachusetts**  
*The first we've ever been able to offer for sale!*



**45. 1785 Vermont Copper. Cast Contemporary Counterfeit. VERMONTIS. RR-5, W-2275. High Rarity-6.** About Good or so, grade it as you will, this contemporary cast issue is seldom seen with more than just a bit of the legend or design visible, as made – though the obverse at least is instantly recognizable with the sun rising over the left side of the mountain range instead of the right, and the 1785 date being high in the field with the VERMONTIS legend actually starting beneath the date, quite different in appearance from the regular landscape varieties. Traces of VERMONTIS can be seen, RES PU is stronger, BLICA weaker, and the 178 of the date is sharp, the last digit visible though weaker. The central device is weak, though some of the sun's rays over the left side of the mountain are visible. The reverse center is weak, as is the word DECIMA, while traces of all letters of STELLA QUARTA can be seen. Medium mottled tan, with some light green that can likely be removed, a relic of its time spent underground. The surfaces are lightly but uniformly rough, as expected for a late 18<sup>th</sup> century cast copper coin.

While the Ryder 5 comes in both struck and cast form, they actually are two different varieties, and should have been given separate numbers. It is possible that an example of Ryder 5 was used to make a casting mold, with details altered a bit by hand – or that a mold was made from an entirely different struck variety that is unknown today. In his masterful *The Copper Coins of Vermont and Interrelated Issues 1783-1788*, Q. David Bower notes that the cast Ryder 5 is different from the struck versions, and gives some useful information on both types. The struck Ryder 5's are legendary rarities, with just four known, one of which is in the collection of the Vermont Historical Society (and none are in the ANS or ANA collections); the last struck example sold was the Norweb-Partrick which brought just over \$70,000 back in 2015. Eight to ten examples of the cast variety are known, which would put the cast type in the Low R-7 range, though realistically High Rarity-6 is probably a more accurate assessment of the rarity today, especially with the addition of this new example to the census. Few of the cast examples show much detail, the exception also being the Norweb-Partrick example which sold for \$15,275 in 2015, a price many at the sale felt to be a bargain given that it had so much detail. Partrick also had a second cast example that brought \$12,925 (this one was later sold by Stack's Bowers in the

2016 C4 sale). These two coins are the sole examples of the cast varieties in the Heritage and Stack's Bowers archives online, while Bowers and Merena sold an example in their April 2005 sale and there was one in the 2001 C4 convention auction held by McCawley & Grellman, as part of the Bud Bibbins collection, this example previously in Stack's sale of September 1993.

In the June 2021 issue of *The Journal of Early American Numismatics*, Julia Casey makes a persuasive argument that the Ryder 5 varieties were made in Rupert, Vermont by the Crane family of counterfeiters, which would place them as contemporary to the Vermont copper coinage; Casey won a well-deserved Numismatic Literary Guild award for this research. What is known definitively is that the cast Ryder 5 issue was first noticed in 1859, in the collection of Augustine Shurtleff, and was first publicized a year later in Montroville Dickeson's *The American Numismatic Manual*; the variety was briefly mentioned by Sylvester Sage Crosby in *The Early Coins of America*, who noted that he had seen two examples "cast, and of very rude workmanship." The first recorded auction appearance for the variety was in March 1865 when W. Elliot Woodward sold an example in the Bache collection, lot 2572 which had one of the lengthiest descriptions in the entire catalogue, reading "This remarkable piece is wholly unlike any of the other Vermont cents, the legend on the obverse extending entirely around the coin, tar field being occupied by a mountain without trees, over which the sun is rising, a plough below, and under the plough the date ; the reverse is not less remarkable — the device, instead of an eye surrounded by rays, being a blazing sun, with a circle of stars appearing between the rays; the legend, in very large letters, extends entirely around the coin; not fine, but in satisfactory condition, being, without doubt, unique; it is a very desirable coin." The piece brought \$5 at that auction, the same price as a nice Willow Tree shilling.

In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century a couple of casts of a known cast example were discovered, these most likely produced by the same individual who made cast Ryder 15 and the non-existent Ryder 40, though probably an earlier production as their quality was not as good as those other varieties. These were not horribly deceptive and were quickly discovered, and we understand those few pieces have since been destroyed. Tom Rinaldo gave a wonderful account of those more modern casts in his description of Lot 270 of the 2001 C4 convention sale and notes that each of those modern casts "has the same surface marks and details found on a specimen of this variety that can be pedigreed back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century." Those same marks prove that all were cast in a mold made from that coin, making them quite easy to distinguish today; an example of this modern cast can be found in Stack's January 1993 auction, a piece whose purchase price was refunded when it was found to be one of the modern cast issues, though thankfully preserving an image in the auction catalogue for future researchers.

The coin offered here shows none of those telltale marks found on the suspicious examples, and indeed has a completely different appearance, including what appears to be a small planchet clip but was more likely where the casting port was located, breaking off when the coin was removed from the casting mold. It was dug in late 2018 in Worcester county, Massachusetts. The lucky finder described it as "found at a site that produced a huge variety of strictly colonial coins (CT, Nova Eborac, VA halfpenny, British) as well as a Continental Army button and two 1<sup>st</sup> CT Regiment buttons, and a revolutionary war ink well. I have not yet pinpointed a name of an inhabitant of the site unfortunately, but all signs point to a revolutionary war veteran that inhabited the site postwar and abandoned it soon after, as no United States coins have been found there."

An exceptional opportunity for the specialist to add one of the rarest varieties of Vermont copper to their cabinet, and the first Ryder 5 we have been able to offer!.....\$5,500



## A Well-Struck Vermont Landscape Copper *with full legends and a strong date*



**46. 1786 Vermont Copper. Landscape. Ryder 7, Bressett 5-E, W-2025. Rarity-3. VERMONTENSIVM. Very Fine,** as usual for the Landscape types the reverse strike is a tad weaker than the obverse. The obverse legend is full, the individual letters strong, and the 1786 date particularly bold. The reverse legend is also complete, a few letters occasionally weaker than their neighbors, but all are visible, and the all-seeing eye at the center is strong, showing a full separation of the eyelid at top. From a later state of the die, with swelling in the fields which weakens the plow on the obverse and some of the stars and rays on the reverse. Medium olive brown, the obverse with a nice two-tone look. While the landscape varieties often come on heavily flawed planchets, this one is particularly nice for a circulated coin, with just a tiny flaw at the right side of the mountain range and a smaller one at the edge above the M of DECIMA. There are no real marks or damage from circulation other than the even wear, and overall this is a pretty landscape copper, especially as it is free of the heavy roughness that seem to mar a good percentage of this type. This also has a particularly bold obverse, which is really the side that collectors care more about for this distinct design type, something that was far different than any other state copper that would have been found in circulation at the time. The publication of Q. David Bowers' recent book on Vermont coppers has certainly added interest to this fascinating series – a compact 39 varieties, ranging from common to exceedingly rare and with a great diversity of design types and both authorized and counterfeit issues. While the variety is known in higher grades, and even an EF would likely not make the tail end of the Condition Census, those pieces tend to disappear into large collections and bring monster prices when sold, such as the \$52,800 MS62 in Stack's Bowers 2019 ANA sale, or Dave Bowers's personal example, a Choice AU58 that brought \$12,600 in 2022. EF examples tend to run in the mid-to-high four figures, so a decent VF example is the best that most collectors can reasonably afford. Finding a circulated example without major planchet flaws or post-strike damage is certainly difficult! This will please at only .....\$1,500

## *Eric Newman's Ryder 10 Vermont Copper*



**47. 1786 Vermont Copper. RR-10, Bressett 8-G, W-2045. Rarity-4. Mailed Bust Left Type. Very Good**, though in a slab that is undergraded at Good-6 (we will happily buy coins all day long with this kind of detail at Good prices!). This is the Eric P. Newman specimen, appearing as Lot 30533 in the Heritage May 2014 sale of this portion of his collection, described as: “The surfaces are primarily dark olive, with areas of maroon oxidation and deep green verdigris. Splashes of yellow appear on each side, with heavy vertical scratches confined to the devices. Minor planchet flaws are noted.” The legends are full on either side, the individual letters mostly strong, and the date nearly all on the planchet. The distinct mailed bust obverse design is sharp for the grade, this device that was commonly used on the 1786 Connecticut coppers was used on just three Vermont varieties, Ryder 10, 11, and 15, the latter quite rare. The reverse design is also strong, with a full branch in her hand. The planchet is almost brassy in appearance, and clearly the alloy was a bit off on the strip this planchet was cut from. Surprisingly this was the only example of the variety that Newman owned, a useful corrective to the modern grade-centric thinking, where CC and Registry Set ranking seems to be all that matters! Newman was happy with this coin, which showed all the legends and most of the date, and good solid design detail. He could have upgraded the coin hundreds of times over the many decades he collected, but he was content with this example, and we think you will be too! It is still in the original NGC slab with the special Newman label, and comes with his original typed envelope (not pictured), which shows a purchase price of \$7.50 (ah, to have a time machine...). Collectors will know that most well-circulated examples of the Mailed Bust Left types seem to come either very rough, or very damaged. This attractive example, with a provenance to one of the most famous colonial collections of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is most affordable at.....\$575

*In the original slab with the Newman label, and accompanied by his original typed envelope.*

## A DOUBLE STRUCK RYDER 13 BRITANNIA VARIETY Ex Rob Retz, Steve Tannenbaum, and Dan Freidus Collections



**48. 1787 Vermont Copper. Ryder 13, Bressett 17-V, W-2255. Rarity-1. The BRITANNIA variety, boldly double struck (Rarity-7 for the error). Choice Very Fine**, an eye-catching example of this popular variety pairing a Vermont copper obverse and an old Machin's Mills counterfeit halfpenny reverse. This example was originally in the collection of the late Rob Retz whose non-Fugio collection was sold to Steve Tannenbaum, and then to collector Dan Freidus. In the Stack's Bowers 2012 C4 sale this piece was catalogued as:

108.6 grains. Deep golden-brown with lighter highlights and uniform microgranularity throughout. *Broadly double-struck*, the evidence plainest on the obverse where two impressions are plainly seen under low magnification. Off-center on the obverse, rim to tops of VERMON, later die state with cud at tip of bust and vertical die crack across the effigy's portrait, no circulation marks present, reverse with some detail, portions of BRITANNIA and the date plainly seen though the overall sharpness is about typical for the variety, rim flaws and fissures, as struck, from 1 to 6 o'clock. A neat specimen that serves to highlights the mechanical foibles so prevalent in the Machin's Mills coinage.

*Provenance: From the Dan Freidus Collection. Ex Rob Retz. Paper envelope with attribution notes included.*

As usual for this variety, grading is done by the obverse as the reverse die was heavily worn by the time this variety is struck; this one does show most of NIA at the left, and a trace of the date. A double strike is a very rare error in the Vermont copper series, and especially so on the Ryder 13 variety. Indeed, we have found just one other auction appearance of a double struck piece, the Bill Anton coin sold in the 2020 C4 auction which was double struck at nearly the same angle, but which showed less detail than this one and had rougher surface quality. If you want an example of this plentiful and popular variety that has a lot of wow appeal, look no further!.....\$1,200

*Accompanied by Steve Tannenbaum's original handwritten envelope and the lot ticket from the 2012 C4 auction where this appeared.*



## An Extremely Fine Ryder 18 *Struck over a Counterfeit Irish Halfpenny*



**49. 1788 Vermont Copper. RR-18, Bressett 19-X, W-2135. Rarity-4. Bust Right. PCGS Slabbed EF Details--Corrosion Removed. Extremely Fine**, a very high grade for this elusive Vermont copper variety, boldly overstruck on a counterfeit Irish halfpenny, as are most of the known survivors of this particular number. Struck from the usual late state of the obverse die, with a massive diebreak bisecting the die nearly vertically – the added stress on the dies of striking previously struck (and hardened) coins likely adding to the reasons this die failed quickly. A fascinating overstrike, showing ample evidence of the host coin – REX is visible on the obverse where AUC would normally be seen, and ERNIA is visible on the reverse at the date area; once oriented a glass will show even more of the undertype, including parts of GEORGIVS hidden under the letters of VERMON. No trace of the Irish undertype's date, though at 120.3 grains this is heavier than the later-made Irish counterfeits, such as the Simians. The strike is quite bold and impressive in the crispness of detail, especially so on the reverse which often comes quite weakly impressed on the variety (or obscured by the overstriking). Medium brown, the surfaces with light but even roughness, perhaps a coin that spent a little time underground, but if so not enough to turn it black or very rough. The PCGS qualifier appears to relate to a slightly brighter area at the obverse effigy's forehead and behind the eye, an area which has toned down, and is not that noticeable. While very scarce as a variety, it is nearly impossible to find in high grades – the current Stack's Bowers archive site has none listed above VF (and most in that grade level are rough or damaged), while the Heritage archives show a single EF, the Partrick example (which was the Ryder plate coin for the variety), damaged by two large digs in the obverse field. The Partrick coin is actually the only one we recall seeing in recent decades with a reverse as sharp as this one. The finest known of the variety is certainly the AMAZING Ford coin, an incredible Choice Uncirculated which still has some mint red (!) – its price of \$71,875 may be strong, but find another anywhere near that grade! The EF Norweb coin, stuck over a Constellatio Nova copper instead of the usual Irish halfpence, brought \$9,350 and the Ezra Cole piece, plated in the Carlotto book, was EF and brought \$3,300, and there was an EF example in the Dr. Hinkley sale of November, 2001 which brought \$6,210, all in a completely different era of lower colonial prices. A strong example, with a bold undertype too!.....\$1,250

## *A Sharp Example of the Very Scarce Ryder 21*



**50. 1788 Vermont Copper. RR-21, Bressett 10-R, W-2155. High Rarity-4. Very Fine**, a very good grade level for this very scarce variety. This example has full legends on either side, and the date is full though a bit weaker than the letters are. Medium brown, the obverse with a patch of light roughness under the bow, both sides with the lightest of circulation marks, consistent with the grade, but no real man-made damage. The Ryder 21 variety was rated a High R-5 for quite some time, before a small number of lower grade specimens were found unattributed on eBay and elsewhere, which has pushed the rarity down a bit to High R-4. But despite those few new pieces, the variety remains very elusive in grades at VF and higher. The slabbed VF20 in Stack's Bowers August 2021 sale was marginally sharper than this, but darker and with some roughness on either side and soared to \$2,880, and was called Condition Census. This is understandable because the online archives of that firm show just a single one graded better, the EF Norweb coin that brought \$3,600 in the 2018 C4 convention sale. The Heritage archives paint a similar story, with just a pair graded EF, both in the Partrick collection (one ex Hillyer Ryder and John Ford, one ex the Q. David Bowers collection). In his book on the series Tony Carlotto notes that "Ryder 21 is one of the tougher 'available' varieties. Specimens above Fine are rare." The Taylor coin was just Fine (though later graded VF with hairlines when it was offered in the 2001 C4 auction, where it realized \$1,840); the Kessler-Spangenberg and John Carter Brown Library pieces were both Fine, the latter rough. The rarity of the issue is shown by the fact that it was missing in any grade from such notable Vermont coppers collections as Cole, Roper, Picker, Oechsner, and the Four Landmark sale of Ron Guth's collection. This is a most acceptable example of this rarer variety – and while it won't make the full Condition Census, it would be difficult to markedly improve upon today. It will definitely not be found at far less than half the price of the last VF one sold at auction; while that one brought \$2,880 in spirited bidding, this one is yours for just.....\$900

**The Scarce and Unusual Ryder 31**  
**A Machin's Mills obverse paired with a Vermont copper reverse!**  
**Ex Tony Carlotto**



**51. 1788 Vermont Copper. RR-31, Bressett 24-U, Vlack 22-88VT, W-2260. Rarity-4. Mailed Bust Right. GEORGIUS III REX Machin's obverse with a standard Vermont reverse. Fine,** the reverse a grade weaker as always found, as this is the same failing die that struck the Ryder 28 and 29 offered in the above lots. Tony Carlotto graded this as F15/G4 though, like the Ryder 13 Britannia variety, net grade should really just be done by the obverse side. Here that obverse is quite strong, with the legend full, the mailed bust showing some detail in the face and hair and more so in the armor he wears, along with about half the large, triangular denticles that make this die easy enough to spot; interestingly this Machin's obverse was paired only with this reverse, not with a standard BRITANNIA legend die, unusual in the Machin's series which features extensive die sharing and pairing. Medium brown, the surfaces with a light roughness to them, and with a small planchet crack at the lower obverse/upper reverse, which was there before the coin was struck – a fair number of this variety come on clipped, cracked or otherwise “defective” planchets, which indicates it was likely one of the last varieties struck before the Coppers Panic put an end to coinage. Carlotto notes on the envelope that there are “no post strike problems!” which is certainly a bonus. This very scarce variety is thus collected both with the Machin's Mills coinage and with the Vermont coppers, putting an additional strain on the limited supply. None seems to have certified as higher than VF (though the Craige-Bowers-Partrick coin had a case for being a solid EF in sharpness but had several large reverse scratches). A pleasing Fine is usually the best the collector on a budget can do, as VF's without problems tend to be mid four-figure coins, and even Fine coins are pricey today, such as the corroded Fine coin in the Stack's Bowers September 2022 auction that brought \$1,140 This example is prettier overall, and available for a lot less money.....\$750

*In Tony Carlotto's original typed and handwritten envelope.*

*Part of Gary Trudgen's “Group Four” – mules associated with the Atlee issues – members of this group are directly punch-linked to the Group One family which contains the iconic Atlee issues, dated mostly from 1771 through 1776.*



## *The Rare 1787 Massachusetts Cent Ryder 2b-C*



**52. 1787 Massachusetts Cent. Ryder 2b-C, W-6050. High Rarity-4. Arrows in Left Talon. PCGS VF-20.** A lovely example, part of two major collections of colonial coins, and owned by just two collectors in the last 55 years! This was first part of the Henry P. Kendall collection, sold by Stack's Bowers in 2015 as lot 2505 and later as lot 3019 of the Michael Demling collection sold by the same firm three years later. The description was essentially the same in both catalogues, the Demling one reading:

145.7 grains. An attractive circulated example of this elusive die variety, with even dark chocolate brown fields contrasting with lighter brown devices. Finely but inoffensively granular under a glass, with some trivial scattered pits in the right obverse field and some verdigris among the devices of the central reverse. The usual large die break between the first date digit and M of MASSACHUSETTS resembles a series of dashes, a state between Ford:89 and Ford:90. A good looking piece, neither as pricey as the finer Ryder-Boyd-Ford coin, which brought \$10,925 in our (Stack's) 2004 sale and \$7,637.50 in the Partrick offering, nor as problematic as either of Ford's two duplicates.

*Provenance: From the Michael Demling Collection of Massachusetts Cents. Earlier ex Stack's Bowers' sale of the Henry P. Kendall Foundation Collection, March 2015, lot 2505, where it had a CAC sticker affixed when in a different holder. Purchased by Kendall from Marshall Field's on January 5, 1958.*

This coin realized just shy of a thousand dollars in the Kendall sale, at which time as noted it had a CAC sticker attached (and deserved). A legitimately rare variety, with few survivors in grades of VF or better. Aside from the exceptional Ford coin, the Vlack coin in Choice AU appeared in the 2019 Twin Leaf sale (at a bargain \$3,360) and Eric Newman's EF was offered again the 2018 ANA sale, while everything else on the Heritage and Stack's Bowers archives has been VF or below, usually with problematic surfaces or roughness. This would be quite difficult to upgrade, and is a pleasing, certified, mid-grade example. We are also offering at less than this same coin brought at auction in 2015!.....\$900

*In the pictured slab, accompanied by Mike Demling's original handwritten envelope with an ink stamp of a Massachusetts cent on the front.*

## *An Inexpensive 1788 Massachusetts Cent*



**53. 1788 Massachusetts Cent. Ryder 8-C, W-6260. Rarity-3. With Period After MASSACHUSETTS. Fine or so,** a higher grade coin that spent a bit of time underground, leaving the surfaces evenly rough, but the roughness is light and softens the look of the details, not obliterating them. The legends are full on either side, the C's of both COMMON and MASSACHUSETTS weaker than the rest, but mostly visible in hand; the date is strong save the bottom loops of the two 8's. which are partially there. The standing Indian shows detail in his face and tunic, though that tunic is weak in the part closer to the bow. The eagle on the reverse shows a surprising number of feathers in the wings, and most of CENT can be seen on the shield, detail usually associated with a VF grade level, which this coin likely was when it was lost. A few light marks from circulation, nothing too detracting. A perfect coin for the collector on a budget who wants a well-detailed coin, and is happy to trade surface quality for a big decrease in price. VF's with average surfaces tend to sell in the \$500 range today, while this one with nearly all the detail is a lot more affordable at just.....\$175



**An Affordable Example of a Low Rarity-6 Massachusetts Cent**  
***Missing from the Taylor and Norweb collections!***



**54. 1788 Massachusetts Cent. Ryder 12-K, W-6340. Low Rarity-6. Period After MASSACHUSETTS. Fine** overall, design detail of the EF grade level, the surfaces evenly rough from time spent underground, which softens the legends on either side – most of the letters and date numerals are visible, though occasionally weak, while CENT is bold on the shield. Strong design detail on either side, including all the pleats in the Indian's tunic and most of the feathers in the wings, and attribution is easy and certain. An extremely rare variety, one that is seldom offered in any grade indeed, we have owned but one example of the variety in the last two decades, and that was in lower technical grade than this. Rare enough as a variety that it was missing completely from the Taylor and Norweb collections, both known for the depth of their holdings. Ford, Partrick and Syd Martin had a nice one – and we mean one: the same example, ex Hillyer Ryder and F.C.C. Boyd, graced all three collections; a lovely specimen, by far the finest known, it sold for \$9,000 last year as part of the Martin collection. The cataloguer of the Martin sale astutely noted that the variety was “a challenge to locate in any grade above Fine.” When a variety is missing from great collections or when a number of those great collections share a single coin, it is a telling commentary indeed (we note that the second Ford coin was actually misattributed and was the common Ryder 10-L, something that was announced at the auction). This is not the most attractive Mass cent out there, but it is something that one seldom sees, a well-detailed and completely affordable rarity.....\$600



*An Affordable Example of the 1788 Ryder 1-A Massachusetts Copper  
The Rarer of Two Varieties for the Year*



**55. 1788 Massachusetts Half Cent. Ryder 1-A, W-6000. Rarity-4+. Fine,** most details strong in that grade level. The legends are full on either side, the first and last letter of the reverse weaker than the rest but all visible, while only traces of the date can be made out at the base of that side. The standing Indian shows many of the pleats in his tunic and the eagle shows many of the feathers in its wing, though HALF CENT is not visible on the shield – generally a coin will need most of those words visible to merit the VF grade. Dark tobacco brown, the surfaces lightly but evenly rough, though not horribly so. There are some marks from circulation including a number of ancient hairline scratches that have toned down to the surface color and are not as obtrusive as they would otherwise be. This is, by far, the rarer of the two varieties of Massachusetts half cent for the year, though there are a handful of truly choice specimens known, including nice Uncs. In the Ford and Twin Leaf sales, the former bringing nearly \$13,000 back in 2015, while Partrick’s Gem brought \$18,000 in 2018. This coin will not compete with any of those specimens of course – but it is something those coins were not, affordable. For the collector on a budge a chance to get a rare variety at little more than type coin money and still get a well-detailed coin. This is just.....\$275



***Q. David Bowers's Bolen Copy of the Large Stars Confederatio Cent***



**56. "1785" (i.e. 1863) Large Star Confederatio Cent, James Bolen Struck copy, Musante JAB-7, Kenney 2, W-14230. Choice Extremely Fine.** This is Q. David Bowers' own example of this very rare issue, now listed in the Whitman *Encyclopedia*. It was sold by Stack's Bowers in their January 2011 Americana sale, where it appeared as Lot 6599 and was described as follows:

**Choice Extremely Fine.** Obv. Diana at altar, INIMICA TYRANNIS AMERICANA around. Rev. Thirteen stars within circle of rays. CONFEDERATIO 1785 around. Smooth light brown surfaces, in fact largely the appearance of a high-grade colonial issue more so than a product of the 1860s. Likely among those artificially worn to pass as a genuine rarity, with even Bolen's secret mark carefully removed at the Y.

*Provenance: From the Q. David Bowers Collection; Charles Litman Collection; Donald M. Miller Collection.*

One of just 30-40 examples struck in copper (Bolen's notebook gives the lower figure, while an 1882 work cited the higher number), these dies were defaced before they were sold, so no other perfect die state pieces could be struck. This example was worn down and almost certainly sold as an original at some point in the 19<sup>th</sup> century – easy enough to do prior to the publication of the Crosby reference which at least had an illustration of an original specimen that collectors could use to compare. But, as the Stack's Bowers cataloguer stated, this has the look and feel of a coin from the 1780s, on a copper planchet with the right look of the era, and the reverse centering of the Confederatio die a bit off, as one would expect for an original. Undoubtedly more than a few collectors were fooled by this piece, and in 1905 Bolen himself stated "although I have never thought or tried to pass one as genuine, I have often regretted having issued them as I have been informed that they have been worn or rubbed and made to look old, then sold as genuine." An Uncirculated example appeared in the November 2021 sale of the Anton collection and brought \$3,840 (the description there well worth reading). This far more deceptive, lightly "circulated" copy is more interesting to us, and one wonders just who it fooled! Priced at just.....\$900

*No lot ticket from the 2011 auction referenced above, though easily plate matched to that sale.*

**The Unique VERY Thin Planchet 1787 Immunis Columbia Copper**  
*Only 70.1 grains, less than half the weight normally seen!*



**57. 1787 Immunis Columbia Copper / Large Eagle Reverse. W-5680. High Rarity-4 for the variety, Rarity-8 for this planchet size. Plain Edge, Very Thin Planchet. PCGS AG-3,** though certainly nicer than that grade level, probably a VG from actual wear, the central details weaker due to this being on an incredibly thin planchet, weighing 4.5 grams or 70.1 grains – the weight so distinct that it is noted as such on the PCGS holder. Full legends, save for the first letter on the reverse and the last 7 of the date, which are partially there, the eagle side a bit sharper overall than the seated Columbia obverse design. Dark olive (the pics here lightened to show detail), with the surfaces lightly rough, but given the ample wear, not bad at all. This lightweight planchet could have been purposely made at this level, perhaps at the tail end of the coinage of this type, when usable dies were striking whatever copper scrap was still around, prior to the collapse of coin value in the Coppers Panic of 1789. Another, more tantalizing, possibility is that this is actually overstruck on a lighter coin, such as a counterfeit British or Irish halfpenny, some of which do tip the scales at the 70-grain mark, though there is no evidence of any sort of undertype on this coin, and one would expect to see something either in the weakly struck central areas or in the stronger peripheries. An overstrike is not out of the question, as five examples of this die pair are known overstruck on 1786 New Jersey coppers (all the Maris 26-S variety). Those overstrikes are all on late die state host coins, which were made in late 1788 to early 1789, and those New Jersey coppers tend to be on large planchets that actually weigh ten grains or so more than the normal narrow planchet Immunis Columbia coppers. If those heavier overstrikes were made in this era, then this lightweight example was likely coined just a bit later, literally as the Coppers Panic was beginning, in the hopes that an official looking coin may still circulate where a counterfeit halfpenny would not. While long called a copper pattern, there appear to be too many of these known for that designation, and the majority of those that do exist are in circulated grades. The High R-4 rating equates to 250 or so presumed extant, and if you presume a 1-3% survival rate for colonials that means a mintage of 8,000 or so coins at the minimum, and 25,000 at the maximum – certainly not what one would expect for a pattern! This is the **ONLY** thin planchet Immunis Columbia recorded, and is a coin that has a story to tell – will you be the one who figures it out and publishes it? While not the highest grade Immunis, it is one of the most interesting!.....\$2,500



**The Very Rare 1787 Large Head Nova Eborac**  
***A nice VG/Fine at under \$1,000!***



**58. 1787 Nova Eborac, Large Head Variety, Breen 985, W-5750. Rarity-6 Very Good to Fine** in terms of wear, the obverse struck from the usual bulged and late state of the die, with some detail there appearing no better than Good. The obverse has most of the legend visible, NOVA weak but there, the EB of EBORAC very faint from die failure but partially visible; the bust has strong detail at the mailing and in the wreath in the hair, but the face is weakened by the prominent die bulge in the field – no doubt this happened early in the dies life and accounts for the rarity of the variety today. The reverse is sharper, the T of ET and L of LIB weak, the rest of the legend strong, the unusual ornamentation before and after the legend sharp, the date particularly bold. The seated female figure is weak at her head, the rest outlined and with the lower dress and shield showing some design detail. Medium brown, smooth and even wear, no appreciable marks or damage. which is always nice for a well-used coin. This is the very rare Large Head type, the second rarest of the four Nova Eborac varieties (the Small Head type being an extreme rarity), and it often comes dark or on very rough planchets. The variety can be found in VF grades, but those generally sell for \$3-6,000 when offered, depending on how nice the planchet is, such as Syd Martin's lightly rough but strong VF that brought \$4,080 earlier this year (and if you like the nicest, there is an Unc of the variety known, ex Partrick and Norweb, which brought \$30,000 when last sold). The Stack's-Bowers online archives show a dozen different examples sold in the last 18 years, while the Heritage archives show a few more, though there is likely some overlap of coins between these two sites; the large head type has certainly kept its rarity as the toughest of the collectible Nova Eborac varieties. This is an affordable example of a very rare issue, a perfect piece for the collector on a budget.....\$900

## THE RARE VLACK 5-72A MACHIN'S MILLS HALFPENNY

### *The Schettino Collection Coin, ex 2006 C4 Auction*



**59. 1772 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 5-72A, W-7710. Rarity-6. GEORGIVS III, Group I. Very Fine**, this early die state example is the Clem Schettino coin, which appeared in the sale of his large collection of Machin's Mills pieces in the 2006 C4 Convention auction, where this coin was plated and appeared as Lot 14, described by cataloguer Tom Rinaldo as "VF 20. 110.6 grains. Rather glossy dark steel brown and chocolate, with myriad fine scratches on both sides, strongest in the field down from the top of the nose and under BRIT. No corrosion or verdigris. The date and legends are complete and strong. A rare variety, missing from many collections. Ex Clem Schettino Collection." Opening rather low, the piece hammered at an impressive \$1,600, showing how in-demand the variety has been, for quite some time, especially so in better grades – a number of examples are known worn down past the VG level, or on very rough planchets. There have not been too many of the variety offered for sale that are appreciably nicer than this. Syd Martin's coin was a stronger VF30, and sold at \$3,120 earlier this year, Anton's VF20 brought \$4,560 just two years ago, and Partrick's VF25 right between these two grades soared to \$5,280 in May 2021. The Martin coin is the highest grade piece in either of the two firm's auction archives online. In their new book on the Machin's Mills coinage, authors Jack Howes, James Rosen and Gary Trudgen note that the Condition Census ranges from a solitary Uncirculated coin, down to VF25, so while this piece will just miss out on those honors, it is at least very close in terms of detail. The variety is thought to have been struck as early as 1785 at Samuel Atlee's brewery in New York, not at the Machin's Mills site – though the name "Machin's Mills halfpence" has been long grandfathered into this series, despite where they were actually struck. The authors note that this is one of the varieties found by C. Wyllys Betts and presented in his 1886 paper on counterfeit halfpence – a good century before Bob Vlack, Eric Newman, and a few others took a renewed interest in the series! A very good coin, the nicest that our late friend Clem Schettino was able to find for his personal collection, and we are pleased to offer it for less money than it actually brought 17 years ago – and far less than recent auction records for VF-level examples!.....\$1,000

## A Sharp 1787-dated Machin's Mills Halfpenny

*No regal British halfpence struck with this date*



**60. 1787 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 17-87A, W-7900. Rarity-2. GEORGIUS III, Group II. Very Fine**, a sharply struck example of this popular type, with one of the odd late dates that immediately tie it to the state coinages, all of which had pieces dated 1787 (as were the Fugio coppers). The legends are full on either side, BRITAN a bit weaker than the rest, but all there, the date fairly strong and all on the planchet. The distinct obverse bust shows ample detail in his face, hair, and armor, while the seated reverse figure is weak only at the branch, while everything else is reasonably strong, especially the unusual squared-off shield. Medium chocolate brown, the surfaces with very light roughness that is even but not deep, and more prevalent at the left obverse. A few scattered circulation marks are perfectly consistent with the grade, and overall the piece is a nice, representative example. With the advent of eBay it seems that every regal or counterfeit British halfpenny – as well as Blacksmith token, state copper and even US large cent! – has been called a “RARE MACHIN’S MILL COIN.” While there are some overlap in dates between counterfeit British halfpence and the Machin’s Mills issues – 1747, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, and 1776 – there are NO British-made counterfeits with the later dates of 1778, 1787, and 1788, and these are obvious and no-questions-asked Machin’s Mills varieties! The Vlack 17-87A is one of the more available varieties in the series, and there are a handful known in truly exceptional grade, and the published Condition Census in the new book on the series is AU to Unc. One of those Uncs was the Syd Martin coin, which brought \$5,280 just a few months back. Syd also had the Newman coin which was from the Stepney Hoard, graded AU58 which we actually preferred. Others seemingly did too as it brought \$5,040 in the same auction. Anton’s MS63 managed to upstage both of the Martin coins though, bringing \$21,600 in the 2020 C4 Auction! Thankfully with enough very high grade examples out there, the average collector can still obtain a sharp VF coin without paying any additional premium for “condition rarity.” This sharply-detailed example with nice color and eye appeal sure seems like a bargain at just.....\$200



## A Nice 1787 Vlack 21-87D, Early Die State *Sold for the Clem Schettino Family*



**61. 1787 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 21-87D, W-7970. Rarity-4. GEORGIVS III, Group III. Very Fine**, an earlier die state example, the state previously called Vlack 21-II-87D-II, which was confusing on many levels, first since it indicated more than one variety, whereas there was really just this one set of dies that had been lapped; second, one would assume that 21-II was a later die state than 21-I, but that is not the case, and the authors of the new book have wisely decided to give the variety a single number, and just note the die states. On this fairly early die state piece, one can see clash marks in front of Britannia's face, which line up with the mailing on the bust from the obverse (these marks look like "II" and, according to a conversation with the late Bob Vlack, that was why that designation was given – the later die state polishes those marks away). Well struck, the legends full, the date particularly sharp, and with good solid design detail on both sides. Medium brown, the surfaces hard enough to the eye, with light roughness and a few very tiny pits hidden in the obverse figure's hair. Another no-questions Machin's issue, with the 1787 date that was used only for this coinage, and is unknown for any counterfeit British halfpence, and is quite likely the year these were actually coined – along with pieces from every state copper coinage and the Fugio coppers too, making it the most commonly-seen date for copper coins at the time, and this is why it (and the 1788 date) was chosen since it was so prevalent in commerce. The earlier Group I issues were struck in 1785, and those were backdated to years known for regal British coinage since those were what was in circulation at that time. There are a handful of nice specimens known of the variety, ranging from EF to Unc., which means a well-detailed and pretty VF doesn't have any premium for condition rarity, making it an ideal piece for a type collector – and the neat clashed dies adds to the charm. This coin is being sold for the benefit of the Clem Schettino family, who will receive the entire purchase price; I am helping to liquidate the small colonial stock he still had, as well as some of the counterfeit British and Irish pieces he had in inventory, some of which will be found at the end of this list. His coins are priced fairly, well under what he had them marked for, and they will come in his original handwritten envelopes, usually with his name and address stamp on the back flap, as is the case with this one.....\$200

## A VF Club Rays Fugio, with Bold Legends and Date *Now Part of the Federal US Coinage Series as Well*



**62. 1787 Fugio Copper. Club Rays, Rounded Ends. Newman 4-E, W-6685. Rarity-3. Very Fine**, a sharply struck example. The obverse legends are bold, with FUGIO, the date, and even MIND YOUR BUSINESS complete, the individual letters and numbers all strong. There is detail in the sun's face, and each of the distinct club-end rays emanating from it is sharp. The sundial is a bit weaker, with a third of the Roman numerals visible. There would be more, but there is a planchet flaw, which was there before the coin was struck, at the lower part of the sundial, and it resulted in a lack of available metal to flow into that part of the die. The reverse is also strong, with WE ARE ONE bold, UNITED STATES a tad weaker but all visible in the surrounding label, and the thirteen interlocked rings all bold. Pleasing medium brown, the obverse with the mentioned planchet flaw at the sundial, and a small striae over the U of FUGIO, the reverse with a wispy striae at the top ring, but otherwise free of defect, and nicely free of post-strike damage or surface roughness as well. This is one of only two collectible examples of the Club Rays obverse design, the other varieties ranging from extremely rare to unique, so it is popular with both type and variety collectors. The fairly recent decision of the grading services to call these the first coins issued by the United States of America has led to an explosion in interest. Now, those interested in early Federal coinage, especially the half and large cent collectors, are adding Fugio coppers to their collections – and a rather limited supply, compounded with increased demand, has the expected effect on prices. Anyone who had decided to invest their life savings in Fugio coppers 5 years ago would have likely tripled their investment (or more), handily beating the stock market and the housing market too! While we think some types, like common Bank of New York Hoard coins in the five-figure range are overpriced, major types in more affordable grades are still inexpensive relative to their rarity. This very sharp Club Ray Fugio is only.....\$1,400

## The Rare Newman 10-T *One Over Horizontal One in Date*



**63. 1787 Fugio Copper. Pointed Rays, States United, 1 over horizontal 1 in date. Newman 10-T, W-6705. Rarity-5. NGC VG8**, and while some details are sharper than that level, it is a fair grade. This example is from the April 2014 Heritage sale of the Old New England Collection, Lot 3798, where this was described as follows:

**1787 1C Fugio Cent, STATES UNITED, 1/Horizontal 1 VG8 NGC. N. 10-T, W-6705, R.5.** The obverse with a blundered 1 in the date was paired with both STATES UNITED and UNITED STATES reverses, with the former slightly scarcer than the latter. This medium brown Fugio copper has readable legends and lacks any mentionable abrasions. The crevices on the reverse show granularity. Listed on page 87 of the 2014 *Guide Book*.

*From The Old New England Collection.*

Despite the Heritage description, there are a number of light contact marks on the obverse, while what is in the reverse rings does not appear to be granularity, but rather gunk that someone skilled in such matters could likely easily remove. Well struck and pleasing for the grade, FUGIO is strong, MIND YOUR BUSINESS is weak at the first and last letter of the bottom word, and the sundial and sun show detail far better than a VG. The all-important date is full, the top of the first 7 a bit weaker than the rest, and the overdate is strong. The reverse has a bold WE ARE ONE, the first and last letter of UNITED STATES weak, the rest all there and mostly sharp, and all of the rings complete. The Newman 10-T variety is unknown in Uncirculated grades, though a few AUs are known. It was not present in the Bank of New York Hoard, and the majority of examples extant today seem to be in Fine or lower condition. This is another naked-eye type coin that is in demand by type collectors (and listed in *The Redbook*), as well as variety collectors. Quite pleasing for the grade, going to just a solid Fine will more than double the price.....\$900

*In the original NGC slab, with the Old New England Collection designation on the label.*



**The Very Rare Newman 17-WW**  
***Only 7 records in the Stack's Bowers and Heritage archives!***



**64. 1787 Fugio Copper. Pointed Rays, STATES UNITED. Newman 17-WW, W-6945. Rarity-6, likely high in that rating. PCGS VG-8**, the obverse closer to a Fine, the reverse a shade weaker so VG is a good grade. From the Richard Moore collection, sold by Stack's Bowers in February 2014 where this was lot 439 and ably described as:

154.9 grains. Primarily light tan, warmer charcoal toning resides in the fields and protected areas on both sides of this slightly porous copper. The date and MIND YOUR are bold, while the remaining devices and letters are visible in the presence of generally even wear. A die crack from 8 o'clock on the obverse extends to the sun dial and a couple of planchet streaks are visible on the reverse from 11 to 12 o'clock. A rather wholesome piece, and free of singularly distracting blemishes. This scarce variety is worthy of bidding pursuit.

Traditionally given an R-5 rating, that is simply too low. Indeed, it has been known so since at least 2012 when the Rob Retz coin was sold, and the cataloguer there noted that "even at 13 known, it's barely cracked Rarity-6+, and we would be much more comfortable with that rarity rating (or even regular R-6) than R-5. It is not common by any stretch." The Stack's Bowers online archives contains a total of just 5 different examples sold at auction (the Retz coin was the nicest in flawed VF, the others all damaged in one way or another), and the Heritage archives contains just two auction records for the variety (in Good and corroded Fine). This is clearly NOT an R-5 variety – and also not one that collectors can afford to be too very picky on! A stroll through our own fixed price lists shows we have not offered an example of the variety in over a quarter of a century, and we have always specialized in rare die varieties of copper coinage. Considering that most of the seven pieces that have appeared at auction are in Details holders, this straight-graded VG is a coin the specialist would do well to consider – who knows, it may be another quarter-century before we can offer another!.....\$950

## A CHOICE 1787 AUCTORI PLEBIS TOKEN PCGS XF40



**65. 1787 Auctori Plebis Token. W-8770. Rarity-3. PCGS graded EF-40, an accurate grade.** A well-struck example of this popular and mysterious issue – this cataloguer hopefully shed some light on the mystery in an extremely long article on this token in the first issue of *The Journal of Early American Numismatics*, tracing this token in the numismatic literature in both England and America to shortly after it was struck in 1795 (not the 1787 date it bears). Always popular with American collectors because the obverse was directly modeled on a 1787-dated Connecticut copper (likely the reason for the date on the reverse of this token), and the obverse may well have been made directly from a struck Connecticut copper – more details on this in that article, which is now available for reading on the Newman Numismatic Portal free of charge, while a second article dealing with the Auctori Plebis “mules” was just published in the newest issue of the *Journal*. The present token is a lovely example of this type, nicer than usually found. The obverse is well struck, the legend full, the Connecticut bust showing all the detail that was in the die – and is actually sharper than some we have seen graded AU. The reverse is, as always, sharper, and as the die was larger than the planchets the bottom of the date and the tops of a few letters are off the edge. The curious central detail, taken directly from a British Conder token, is here quite sharp, and it is an intermediate state of this die, with the break from the globe to the figure’s head thin. Hard olive brown surfaces, a few trivial circulation marks, most noticeably on the obverse bust. While this type can often be found in EF grades, many tend to have rough surfaces. The 2020 C4 auction had a nice run of this type from the Anton collection, including never-before seen items like a flip-over double strike and a full obverse brockage! A pleasing example, and while struck in England it is a piece that belongs in every American colonial collection, given that link with the Connecticut copper series.....\$750

*Accompanied by a paper collector’s envelope with provenance to 1964, then priced at a strong \$125.*



*A Gorgeous Early Restrike 1796 Castorland in Copper  
CUIVRE stamp over a Reeded Edge*



66. "1796" (1845-1860) Castorland Medal, or Jeton. Paris Mint Restrike. W-9155. Copper. Reeded Edge, with pointing hand and CUIVRE stamped over the reeding at 6 o'clock. **Choice Uncirculated**, a boldly struck example of this popular and enigmatic issue, with everything bold and strong. The surfaces are nice, with ample prooflike luster on the original, toned surfaces. No marks or damage worth note, and a piece that has clearly been well-cared for in the 160+ years since it was made. The edge has a thick reeding, with a tiny stamp over the reeding at the base of the piece (this is struck medal turn, so that 6 o'clock is the base of both side); the stamp must have been very carefully placed as all examples from the 1845-60 restrike that we have seen with the stamp over the reeding is in the exact same place. The most recent auction record for a comparable piece was the slabbed one in Stack's Bowers March 2020 auction, a darker and less-reflective specimen that brought \$360. This one, which would likely grade the same or higher as that piece is just.....\$250

*The various original and restrikes variations of the Castorland issues are in sore need of a detailed, analytical look – and publication of whatever is found!*





**Ted Craige's PROOF 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent**  
*An extremely rare Proof striking of a colonial coin!*



**67. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent. Fuld-4, W-8590. With NEW YORK. Small & on Reverse. Copper. Lettered Edge. Proof.** This is the Ted Craige example, which appeared as Lot 410 of Stack's Bowers March 2013 sale of his collection, where it was described as follows:

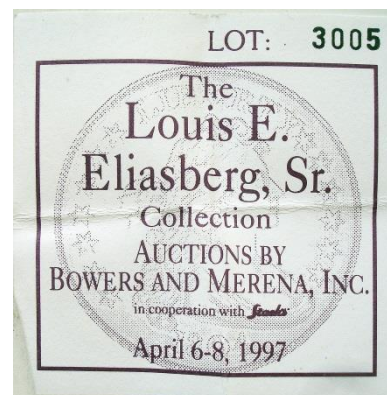
1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent. Fuld-4, W-8590. With NEW YORK. Small & on Reverse. Copper. Lettered Edge. Proof Unc Details--Spot Removed (PCGS). 158.0 grains. Type with small NEW YORK above the reverse ship. The rose-pink obverse toning is suggestive of a long-ago cleaning, the reverse mostly chocolate-brown with a soft red underglow. Sharply struck and marginally reflective in a bold light source. Old spot worked off the surface - not too successfully - at CE in COMMERCE. Still, a reasonably attractive coin that is liable to enjoy strong bidding support despite the minor drawbacks.

*Provenance: From the Ted L. Craige Collection. Purchased from Richard Picker at an undisclosed time. Paper envelope with attribution notation and Picker envelope included.*

Since that sale the token has been removed from its PCGS slab, likely in an attempt to straight grade the piece, but the obverse spot removal would prevent that. Regardless of grade this is an **EXTREMELY RARE** Proof striking – one of only a handful of American colonial coins that exist in this state. The Talbot, Allum & Lee's were struck in England and imported from there to New York, and the few proofs (known for both the 1794 and 1795 dates) were likely made as presentation pieces for the firm – or specially struck for British collectors who would have included these in their "Provincial Token" collections, despite the New York legend (Dalton & Hamer did not include them in their 20<sup>th</sup> century publication because of that, though they did include the various mules with this obverse die). We sold a slabbed Proof 60 on our 20<sup>th</sup> Price List in 2019 that had multiple orders at \$2,250. This one is available for significantly less, and though not slabbed it is a guaranteed Proof specimen, as stated in the Stack's Bowers description, available at little more than Uncirculated money today.....\$1,250

*Accompanied by Ted Craige's original envelope, the Picker envelope mentioned in the Stack's Bowers description sadly no longer present.*

**THE LOUIS ELIASBERG 1794 TALBOT ALLUM & LEE CENT**  
*A Rare Provenance for a Colonial – for what it sold for 25 years ago!*



**68. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent. Fuld-2, W-8570. Rarity-2. With NEW YORK. Large & on Reverse, Edge Lettered PAYABLE AT THE STORE OF. Very Fine**, an unremarkable example of this popular type, made more remarkable because of its inclusion as part of the famed Louis E. Eliasberg Collection, the only complete collection of United States federal coinage ever formed, and one of the most celebrated of auctions in the waning years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This coin was one of just five colonial coins in the April 1997 auction of his collection, a curious mix of average and stellar as the other lots were a VF Auctori Plebis token and a 1781 North American token in the same grade – and then there was also a lovely Uncirculated Continental “dollar” and a Gem Uncirculated Bar Cent! Described in that sale as:

3005. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee cent. Variety with NEW YORK. B-1029. F-15. 150.2 grains. Light brown toning. A specimen that saw a fair amount of circulation, certainly well into the first decade or two of the 19th century. Struck in England for the account of the New York City partnership indicated. Many undistributed pieces were later sold to the Philadelphia Mint, where planchets were punched from them and used to coin federal half cents.

This is a coin that Eliasberg could have upgraded very easily, at any time, yet he was content with it in his collection, and he appreciated the historical value of the coin. While some have wondered why Eliasberg didn't pursue the colonial series with the same force he did the Federal US coinage, it must be remembered that at the time he was collecting some of the major colonial collections such as Garrett, Norweb, Brand/Boyd/Ford, Newman, and Partrick were all off the market, and the amount of choice and rare colonials offered were limited. Per the prices realized, this example realized \$605 at that auction (\$550 hammer plus a 10% buyer's fee – remember those days?), and was clearly purchased because of its provenance. This is the first time in a quarter century the piece has been offered, and if you've ever wanted to add your name to the Eliasberg provenance chain, here is your chance – and even better, it's available for basically what it sold for way back then!.....\$600

*Accompanied by the original lot ticket from the Eliasberg sale, as well as a cut out copy of the lot description.*



## *A Sharply Detailed 1795 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent*



**69. 1795 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent. Fuld-1, W-8620. Rarity-1. Edge Lettered: WE PROMISE TO PAY THE BEARER ONE CENT. Extremely Fine,** likely an even higher grade coin that spent a little time underground, with the result that the surfaces are lightly rough, most noticeably in the upper right obverse field between the standing figure and OMME of COMMERCE. Otherwise the surfaces are a dull matte-like, but nicely free of marks or damage from circulation. Rather bold, the legends and date full, the design details sharp on either side, the obverse figure with full details in her face and dress, and the only area that really shows any wear is the hull of the ship on the reverse, where the square portholes are weaker than the rest. Darker brown, a shade or two darker than the photograph which has been lightened here to show the detail of the coin, but not unattractive, and a piece which has an awful lot of meat left on the bone. Really choice Uncirculated pieces are well into the four-figures, while even a pretty AU may bring close to a grand. If you're collecting on a budget and want a coin with all the detail, but not pay anywhere near that price, this might be one to consider, as it is only.....\$275





***A Trio of Talbot, Alum & Lee Mules:  
The Unusual Stork Halfpenny – Dated Both 1793 and 1794!***



**70. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent / 1793 Stork Promissory Halfpenny Mule. Fuld Mule-2, Breen 1043, Dalton & Hamer Hampshire 52, W-8670. Rarity-4. Copper. Edge Lettered PAYABLE AT THE WAREHOUSE LIVERPOOL. Choice Extremely Fine,** the stork side a little weaker as nearly always found. A very pleasing example of this scarcer and most unusual variety – pairing the 1794-dated Talbot, Allum & Lee obverse with a stork Promissory Halfpenny reverse that is dated a year earlier, 1793! The obverse is bold, and would likely grade AU on its own, the legend sharp, the standing figure with the usual light weakness at her face – by the time these were struck, this obverse die had already been used to coin regular Talbot, Allum & Lee cents. Medium brown, the surfaces hard and with traces of faded luster, the obverse clean, the reverse with only a small nick in the field to the left of the stork’s neck, a piece that was not in circulation for long before it was rescued by a collector! These were likely a slightly later (1796-1798) cobbling together of unrelated dies, in order to first sell them to British collectors who would have added them to their cabinets as rare and unusual Conder tokens, which were THE collecting rage at the time. If more were struck than the collector market could absorb, the excess could then be dumped into circulation as regular Conder token halfpence and still yield a profit. While many British collectors would not have included the regular Talbot pieces in their collection since the reverse dies showed they were American issues, the mules with known Conder token dies would certainly have whet their appetite. A 1794 and a 1795 obverse die were paired with six different Conder token dies, and struck on planchets with different edge lettering, resulting in over a dozen different collectible varieties. The best listing of these is in the Breen *Encyclopedia* (though we note that his 1048 was actually an electrotype and does not exist as a genuine variety). This is scarcer than the John Howard and Earl Howe varieties, though nowhere near as rare as the Blofield Calvary and York Cathedral mules. Syd Martin had a gem of an example that brought \$2,880 a few months ago – this one won’t challenge that for finest known, but it’s a lot cheaper at just.....\$700

*As one would expect, the late Syd Martin took a special interest in these mules and formed what is certainly the best collection of them ever. These were sold by Stack’s Bowers in their March 2023 offering of coins from his collection, and the catalogue was superbly done, and can be used as a reference work for this rare and fascinating series.*

## ***The Earl Howe Mule, Colonial coin and Conder Token Combined!***



**71. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent / Earl Howe Mule. Fuld Mule-3, Breen 1047, Dalton & Hamer Hampshire 25, W-8710. Rarity-4. PAYABLE IN LONDON edge. Choice About Uncirculated,** a lovely example of this scarce and illogical muling, pairing the obverse of a 1794-dated Talbot, Alum & Lee cent, with the reverse of an Earl Howe Conder token which is broken and badly buckled. As always found, this is weakly struck in the centers – the coiner likely reducing the striking pressure so as not to shatter the Howe die, which was clearly on its last legs. Attractive dark tan fields, the Talbot side with a swathe of darker toning at the lower right, the surfaces glossy. No real marks from circulation, and this is likely as struck. Indeed the three slabbed specimens of this variety all show the exact same detail as this, and realistically are all technically Uncirculated specimens, with grading by surface and eye appeal giving the nod between the two grade levels (and thus likely to change every time it is graded!). The sole slabbed Unc was an MS63, found in Heritage's May 2008 sale, and was truly deserving of the grade, with ample luster, and sold for a jaw-dropping \$6,235, presumably to a registry set collector. AU's tend to bring under \$1,000 yet show nearly the exact detail. It has long been assumed that these were made for collectors of the day, and there are a handful of pieces that grade EF and above. But the vast majority of specimens seem to grade VF and lower, and did spend time in circulation. It is true that late-18<sup>th</sup> century British collectors did go gaga over mules, and there are a couple Talbot, Alum & Lee mules that are almost always found in choice grades, such as the York Cathedral, Blofield Calvary, and Stork mules. But one wonders if contemporary collectors were as eager to add the Howe and John Howard mule (offered below) to their cabinets, as they were weakly struck, from broken dies. Perhaps sales of these were slim, and the coiner just released the pieces he couldn't sell into circulation, thus accounting for the circulated specimens seen today. The last comparable AU we recall seeing at auction was the AU55 in Stack's Bowers January 2013 sale, which brought just under \$850, while Syd Martin's Unc brought \$1,560 just a few months ago. This is priced at.....\$700

*The Talbot mules are listed by Dalton & Hamer in their work on Conder tokens, though they do not list the original Talbot, Alum & Lee pieces as those state New York (on all but one reverse) and were clearly not made for the British market, even though they were struck in England.*

## A Very Pleasing John Howard Mule



**72. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent / John Howard Mule. Fuld Mule-5, Breen 1049, Dalton & Hamer Hampshire 56, W-8720. Rarity-4. PAYABLE IN LONDON Edge. About Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category.** A well-struck example of this variety, with the same backstory as the above piece – likely initially made for collectors who didn't want to pay a premium for weakly struck pieces from a broken Conder die, and the unsold remainder released to circulation. The Talbot side here is sharper than usually seen, with much of the facial features visible, and just the usual weakness at the front of her lower body. The John Howard side shows the characteristic diebreaks and spalling in the fields, and has strong hair and facial details, as well as a sharp jacket with just the shoulder detail not brought up. Very pleasing medium brown surfaces that are hard, the John Howard side a bit glossy. There is a slightly darker area of toning in the right obverse field, and a couple marks on the Talbot side, the only notable one being an ancient nick to the left of the standing figure's head. While about the same overall rarity as the Earl Howe mule offered above, there seem to be a few more of this variety in higher grades – perhaps because the die damage isn't as noticeable and it comes at least slightly better struck, more were sold to collectors. The nicest slabbed example was an MS63 in Heritage's March 2009 sale that sold for \$4,025 – and which shows pretty much the exact same detail as this one (and all the other AU's out there). Like the Howe mule there are also a large proportion known in VF and lower grades, and occasionally found well-worn into the VG level, showing that these circulated alongside the mishmash of late 18<sup>th</sup> century Conder tokens that were in circulation from 1787 (and much preferred by the populace to the lightweight counterfeit halfpenny and farthings they previously had). Quite pleasing, and a perfect example of this scarce mule.....\$600

**Want a good start to a collection of TA&L Mules?**

**Purchase all three of these scarce pieces**

**and take 15% off their Individual Prices!**

**\$2,000 list price – just \$1,700 for all three coins**

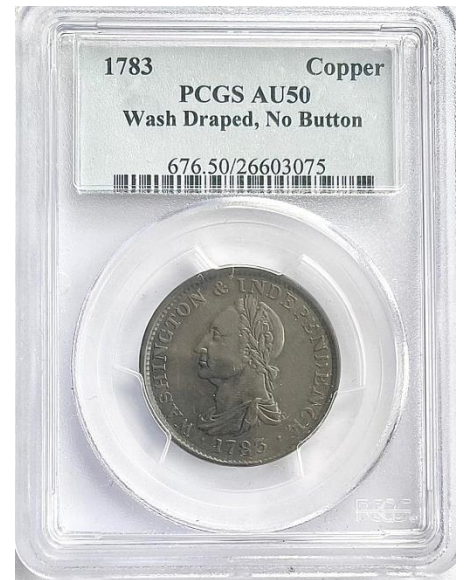


## *A Pleasing Washington Unity States Cent*



**73. “1783” (circa 1820) Washington Unity States Cent. Baker 1, Vlack 27-W, Breen 1188, Fuld WA.NC.1783.1, Musante GW-104, W-10130. Extremely Fine, struck on the usual planchet with distinct striations in the peripheries, which were on the planchet prior to the coins being struck. On this specimen they are much smaller and less distracting than normally found on this type. The legends are full, the tops of some letters weaker from those striations, though all visible, the date is strong, Washington’s bust is sharp for the grade, with much drapery, face and the wreath visible in his hair. Deep medium tan, the surfaces are hard, with just a few light contact marks as expected for the grade. Quite nice for this type which is nearly unknown in Uncirculated grades. Despite its 1783 date (and the honor of being the first piece listed in the 1885 Baker work on Washingtonia), there is no way this variety could have been struck in that year, as the reverse design closely resembles the 1794 large cents, with the word UNITY substituted for UNITED – probably an effort to evade anti-counterfeiting laws, much as some of the later Hard Time Tokens issues had a tiny “NOT” over the denomination of “ONE CENT.” A choice example for the specialist or type collector, and while we have handled a few in higher technical grades, none showed significantly more detail, and most of the higher grade ones tend to have more adjustment marks or striations at the peripheries than this. The John Ford collection sold by Stack’s in May, 2004 contained an “Uncirculated” example (we thought high-end AU) that realized \$1,955 and had strong striation marks, as well as a weaker EF that had lighter striations and realized \$402.50; the second piece was added to Ford’s collection in 1976, as an adjunct specimen without quite as many striae as his higher grade coin. A nice example of the first issue listed in the Baker work, and hard to markedly improve upon without getting into the four-figure pricing realm.....\$325**

**Ted Craige's Lovely PCGS AU50 Washington Draped Bust Cent**  
*Only the second time offered in over 50 years!*



**74. "1783" (Circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Baker-2, Vlack 13-J, Musante GW-106, W-10300. Rarity-1. No Button. PCGS graded AU-50, probably slightly finer than that** (we have seen less-attractive specimens at the full 55 level). Boldly struck as expected for the grade, the legend, date and design details all razor sharp, with just the faintest light rub on the high points of either side – this is truly “cabinet friction,” and not from actual circulation. There are no real marks to speak of, and the piece is quite pleasing in hand. This is Ted Craige’s specimen, and appeared as Lot 11444 of the Stack’s Bowers January 2013 sale of his collection where it was described as:

**"1783" (Circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Baker-2, Vlack 13-J, W-10300. Rarity-1. No Button. AU-50 (PCGS).** 115.0 grains. Deep olive-brown with a solid visual presence. A tiny gouge at the tip of Washington's bust is the only reportable blemish found under low magnification. I in toga folds for Thomas Wells Ingram.

*Provenance: From the Ted L. Craige Collection. Paper envelope included.*

While made a few decades later than the date they bear, the 1783-dated Washington copper issues are all avidly collected as part of the colonial Washington series. These do seem to have been made to circulate, not to go into collector’s cabinets, and there are far more grading under VF than grading over AU. But some were certainly saved by contemporary collectors, though not in appreciable quantity. PCGS has graded just 10 in Uncirculated grades, the finest sold being an MS63 in Heritage’s January 2007, which brought \$2,530, while the finest in the Stack’s archives is an AU58 piece that looks no better than this. This is a picture perfect type coin, and one that will be very difficult to even marginally improve. A nearly Uncirculated, nearly colonial coin, with a wonderful provenance.....\$850

*Accompanied by Ted Craige’s original handwritten envelope (not pictured).*

## *A Rarer Variety of Washington Military Bust Cent*



**75. "1783" (ca. 1820) Washington Military Bust Copper. Musante GW-109E, Vlack 5-D, Baker-4, W-10190. Large Military Bust. Choice Very Fine**, the obverse closer to a full EF grade. Well struck, the legends and date all sharp, including the small designer's initials at the bottom of the reverse, which often come weak. Washington's bust shows strong detail in his face and uniform, including the epaulets which are the highest point of the design and wear quickly. On the reverse the seated figure is a bit flatly struck at the face and dress detail on her leg, and with just a bit more there this would have been an EF coin. This is a rarer sub-variety of this popular type, with the figure sitting on a rock that has a speckled design to it, the only reverse die in this series with that feature which makes it easy to attribute! The new Musante reference includes photos and descriptions of the various die varieties for this and the other 1783-dated issues (reprinting the earlier descriptions by Robert Vlack in *The Colonial Newsletter*, though with much better photographs). These large military bust issues seem to have circulated, as the average grade for examples seem to be in the VF range (and are known worn down all the way to the About Good level!), with AUs quite difficult to find and true Uncs extremely rare – not the survival pattern one would expect if these had been made for sale to collectors. The question of where and when they circulated has not been fully answered. The 1820s had a plentiful supply of half and large cents in the US, and lighter weight coins (even those purporting to be colonial) would not have been needed in commerce. While they could certainly have been used during the Hard Times era in the US in 1837, this was a good decade or two after they were struck, and where were they during that time? This was not a small coinage issue either, with 11 obverse and 7 reverse dies used to make 10 different varieties. The image of Washington and the UNITED STATES legend on the reverse would mean that even if these were made in England, they likely weren't made to circulate there...the colonial series has many mysteries to solve, even two centuries or more after the coins were struck!.....\$275



## Syd Martin's Very Late Die State Georgivs Triumpho



**76. 783 Georgivs Triumpho Token. Musante GW-54, Baker-7, Breen-1184. Copper. PCGS graded VF-20**, probably a bit stronger than that level overall. This is one of the Syd Martin coins, and appeared as Lot 2059 of the October 2022 sale of his Washingtonia by Stack's Bowers where it was ably described as:

27.9 mm. 112.7 grains. Glossy medium to light brown. Clearly a specimen that saw more circulation wear than those offered in the previous lots, with a few superficial marks noted under magnification. However, a significant part of the "wear" is probably fairly assigned to the failed state of the dies. Spalling and sinking in the obverse fields is fairly well pronounced, while the usual breaks, aggressive spalling and sinking of the reverse are well developed and give the piece a rather rustic appearance, as on all seen of this late die state. The major design elements remain clear, and the condition is quite satisfying overall.

*Provenance: From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jeff Rock, via eBay, April 2009.*

Syd was quite pleased to get this example when we sold it to him over a dozen years ago, as he thought it was in the same die state as the exceedingly rare mule pairing this obverse with the reverse of a counterfeit Danish West Indies 24 skilling coin dated 1767 – one of the two known was in the lot after this coin in the Syd Martin sale, realizing \$5,280 which was something of a bargain. The mule may be in a very slightly later die state, but this was likely one of the last of the Georgivs Triumpho tokens struck. One of the more curious issues, the obverse bust looks nothing like Washington and more like George III on his Irish coinage, but by the date on this that king was certainly NOT triumphant, his troops having been defeated in 1781 and a peace treaty signed in Paris in 1783, the year this coin bears (and was probably struck in, unlike other 1783-dated Washington coinages). The reverse is the same general motif found on American state coppers, as well as regal and counterfeit British halfpence, with the exception of a cage/screen/tapestry over her lower torso, each corner of which is anchored by a French *fleur-de-lis*, a detail that acknowledges the help of France in the American Revolution. This Washington issue is also listed as an evasion copper (Atkins 232), and may have circulated in England along with other evasion issues – apparently the irony of England's loss of its colonies was not noticed by those who used these in commerce. A great provenance for a fascinating coin!.....\$550

## *A Nicely Detailed 1791 Washington Small Eagle Cent*



**77. 1791 Washington Small Eagle Cent. Musante GW-17, Baker-16, W-10630. Edge lettered UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Extremely Fine**, a lightly circulated example of this scarce and popular type. Well struck, the legends, date, and design details all bold as expected for the grade. Dark chocolate brown, the surfaces hard. There is an old scrape in the lower left obverse field below the AS of WASHINGTON which is noticeable, but has toned down to the surface color and not as glaring as a result, and just a few other light marks consistent with the coins short time in circulation. One of two types of coins (the other with a large eagle on the reverse and the date moved to the obverse) that were produced in England, in the hopes of a contract coinage with the fledgling United States, which had yet to set up a national mint. The dies were cut by John Gregory Hancock, Jr. (who also cut the dies for the very rare 1792 Washington Roman Head cent, as well as many British Conder tokens of the era), and were struck by W. and Alex Walker in Birmingham, England, and then shipped to the firm of Thomas Ketland & Sons in Philadelphia, to be given to Congressional legislators and important citizens. This small eagle type is rarer than its large eagle brethren, and it is estimated that only 1,500 of the small eagle coinage was produced, along with 2,500 of the large eagle coins. The hoped-for contract never materialized – first because President Washington did not want his image on a coin, rightly claiming it smacked of monarchy, and second because Congress was deciding that the nation needed to strike its own coin (dashing the hopes of Matthew Boulton who also wanted a contract – and would have done a much better job than anyone on the planet had he been selected!). The 1,500 mintage of the small eagle cent is the exact same as a coin produced under the auspices (if not the actual building) of the new national mint in Philadelphia the following year – the 1792 half disme – though the price differential between the two is staggering! The majority of both the small and large eagle types were put into circulation, and their good weight would have made them acceptable by merchants anywhere. A number were saved by collectors – both in the US and in England it appears – so high-grade examples are extant, if not plentiful. Truly choice ones are quite pricey, such as the MS65 brown example in Stack's Bowers January 2013 auction which brought \$6,462.50, but thankfully EF examples are far more affordable.....\$750



## *An AU 1795 Washington Liberty and Security Halfpenny*



**78. 1795 Liberty and Security Halfpenny. Musante GW-48, Baker-31, W-11015. Edge lettered PAYABLE AT LONDON LIVERPOOL OR BRISTOL. PCGS graded AU Details.**

A nicely-struck example of this popular type, and one that is almost unknown in full Uncirculated grade. The legends are bold on either side, save for the S of SECURITY which is partially weakened from the planchet edge flaw there. The central details are as sharp as they come – this variety is known for extremely weak strikes, and this (like others slabbed AU) are likely pieces that did not circulate, but just are flatly struck on Washington’s hair and the eagle’s breast. Nice medium brown color, the surfaces hard and free of post-strike marks. The edge flaw mentioned barely touches the base of Washington’s bust on the obverse, and adds a crude kind of charm to the piece. Compare the strike here for the only example of this edge type in the Stack’s Bowers archive in Uncirculated grade, the Norweb example, sold almost 17 years ago (an uncertified coin, whose cataloguer mused on whether it would slab as Unc, which it technically was, or a high-end AU due to the weak strike – though it didn’t matter much to bidders though, as the coin realized \$2,530). Struck in England, from dies engraved by Thomas Wyon, this issue comes with four different edges, three of them lettered and only one of those relevant to the United States (the Asylum edge); Walter Breen listed two additional edges, which were actually errors (the planchets had the edges lettered prior to striking, and the edging machine would occasionally slip, leaving out chunks of words). By 1795 the Philadelphia Mint was up and running, and any hope for a contract coinage should have long since vanished from the minds of British coiners, but a year earlier the Mint had come under Congressional scrutiny for their inability to get copper coins in circulation (at least outside of Philadelphia), and that may have briefly raised hopes for a contract coinage from England once again. One can argue the merits of putting a piece that had a pre-strike planchet flaw into a details holder – had the coin been submitted the second it fell off the press and was still full mint red, the flaw would have been there, and one doubts it would have received an “MS70 Details” grade! The Heritage archives show just a pair in slabbed Uncirculated grades, including an MS63 that showed marginally more detail than this, but had clear traces of mint luster, which brought \$4,600 way back in May 2008! Norm Peters’ PCGS AU brought \$1,560 in Stack’s Bowers June 2021 sale of his collection, the most recent auction appearance for a slabbed AU we have located. The neat planchet flaw keeps the price at a fraction of that level, just.....\$500



**And a Pleasing, Lightly Circulated  
Washington Liberty And Security Penny**  
*The largest, heaviest copper coin in circulation in North America!*



**79. Undated (1795) Liberty and Security Penny. Musante GW-45, Baker-30, W-11050. Copper. Usual Lettered Edge. About Uncirculated,** a lovely, well-struck example of this hefty coin, which was a whopping 1/3 heavier than the early date large cents! Struck in England, where this would not have been the largest coin in circulation, as Matthew Boulton's Soho "Cartwheel" pennies were heavier still – but while Washington was respected in England, the coin was clearly not meant to circulate there, especially with the reverse legend proclaiming liberty! Bold as expected for the grade, the legends and design details sharp. Light wear on Washington's wig curl above his ear and the eagle's breast, the two highest points of the design. Pleasing light brown and lighter tan color, the surfaces are hard and though they appear perfect at first glance, we note a nick between Washington's chin and shirt ruffle, ancient and toned down. A few trivial marks from its short circulation do not detract, and the fields are actually quite nice for such a large piece. There are a fair number in high grades, including Uncirculated – many went into late 18<sup>th</sup> century British collections (including one to Miss Sarah Sophia Banks, now in the British Museum). But there are worn pieces too, and one wonders what value they circulated at – in either country! The really choice pieces can bring into the high four figures – a slabbed MS66 brought over \$7,500 in Stack's Bowers March 2015 auction, and another in the same grade managed \$6,600 in their 2017 C4 auction, while Heritage had a full red one slabbed MS65 that was just shy of the \$10,000 mark in January 2021. Luckily for the collector on a more modest budget, there are AUs and Choice EFs that sell for significantly less money – Baker's own AU brought \$1,680 in the 2019 C4 auction for example. This one is available for nearly half that price!.....\$900

## An Inexpensive Washington North Wales Token

### *One of the few American-relevant evasion coppers*



**80. Undated (1795) Washington North Wales Halfpenny. Baker 34, Breen 1294, Fuld WA.1795.7, Musante GW-51, plain edge type. Rarity-4. Fine**, a typical grade level for the variety, which is almost never found better than VF, though the lower grades are more often due to strike than actual wear. The legends at the left on either side are weak but at least mostly visible, those on the right are full and stronger. Washington's bust and the crowned harp show about all the detail normally found on the plain edge types (the thicker planchets of the rare lettered edge variety provided more metal to fill the dies and thus show more detail). Dark brown, with the surfaces lightly but evenly rough, suggesting some time underground, though free of any appreciable man-made damage from actual circulation – and this one certainly circulated, though one wonders on which side of the Atlantic that happened. Struck as part of the evasion series, this type was listed as Atkins 132 (and still listed as an evasion in the Cobwright reference, where it is called G.0120/N.0190). While this reverse is known only with this obverse, this obverse also comes paired with a reverse that has two stars at each side of the harp, and that reverse is paired with two additional evasion copper obverses, effectively tying the entire group together. A century ago the evasions were considered American-relevant and even called "Pennsylvania Bungtowns," a theory demolished by Eric Newman (and in even greater detail in this cataloguer's article on evasion coppers in the June 2021 issue of *The Journal of Early American Numismatics*), and they were mostly made after 1796, at which point lightweight copper would not have circulated much in the United States, so it appears that they circulated in England alongside the various Conder tokens and counterfeit halfpence there (and Washington was well-respected in the nation, even after he defeated them in war). While still collected with the evasion series, that Washington obverse clearly links them to the colonial American series as well, meaning the type is in demand on both sides of the Atlantic. Tough to find truly choice, the EF Norweb coin brought \$2,300 back in 2006, while one graded AU-55 brought a jaw-dropping \$5,060 in the Stack's Bowers December, 2005 auction, a record for the variety. This one is not nearly as nice – or as pricey – and may be the cheapest Washington North Wales you will likely ever find.....\$125



**An AFFORDABLE Washington Born Virginia Copper, Baker 60**  
*George Fuld estimated just 40-50 known in all grades*  
*Linked to the 1792 pattern coinage and*  
*struck while Washington was still alive – and President!*



**81. Undated (1792) Washington Born Virginia “Cent.” Baker 60, Breen 1239, Fuld WA.1792.9, Musante GW-33, the second die pairing of this popular and rare issue, and one that was actually struck while Washington was still in office. Low Rarity-6. Very Good,** the reverse a shade weaker as always the case on the issue. The first few letters of the obverse legend gone, the rest there and mostly strong, the bust of the General fully outlined and with some detail in the face and coat. The reverse shows close to two-thirds of the legends, the letters and numerals ranging from weak to sharp for the grade. Medium brown, the surfaces with a light roughness that isn’t unexpected. A well-worn example of this RARE variety, one of the most popular of the colonial-era Washington issues, clearly linked to the 1792-dated Washington pattern coinages as they share die linkage with some of the “John Hancock” patterns, and stylistic similarities with others in that series, as well as with the 1792 Getz pattern “half dollar” issues. While certainly struck in England, the vast majority of the surviving population are well-used, and just where they circulated is uncertain – as is the value they would have been accepted at in commerce, as they were heavier than any of the state coinages that would still be seen in the early United States, but lighter than the 1793-dated chain cents that would soon be minted. In his ANS monograph, the late George Fuld noted that perhaps 40-50 were known in copper, in all grades, though the vast majority are known in circulated condition. EF’s and above are quite rare – and expensive. The Garrett-Partrick example, a gorgeous prooflike example that was clearly saved by a collector from the time it was struck sold for \$57,600 when it reappeared for sale at Stack’s Bowers in March of this year. Lower circulated grade examples are, thankfully, a lot more affordable for most collectors – though the Stack’s Bowers archives do not show a single example for less than a grand. This is certainly the most affordable, genuine, fully attributable example of the variety that we have seen in at least thirty years, and is perfect for the collector on a budget who appreciates history.....\$950

*From the late H. Joseph Levine’s Presidential Coin and Antique Company June, 2011 sale, Lot 149, accompanied by the original lot ticket.*



**The Exceedingly Rare Washington Manly Medal  
struck in WHITE METAL, Baker 61A**

***Only 19 examples traced by Fuld - a makeshift Indian Peace Medal?***



**82. 1790 Manly Medal. First Obverse. White Metal. Baker-61A, Musante GW-10. High Rarity-6.** Fine or slightly better obverse details, the reverse a bit weaker as is often the case with this large medal, nearly 50 mm in diameter! . The somewhat unflattering portrait of Washington on the obverse is strongly detailed, and the legend is full. The reverse is weaker, though all but the last line of lettering is sharp, and most of that last line can be made out; the shorter lines with just dates are weak but partially visible, as is the Manly name at the base. Holed at the top of the obverse, with light scratches and some nicks and dings. This hole and wear pattern looks exactly like Indian Peace medals that were awarded to chiefs and worn with pride for decades after. Given the bust of Washington on the obverse, it is highly likely that this particular example was a makeshift Indian Peace Medal, depicting the “Great White Father,” perhaps awarded to a lower-ranking member of a tribe. This first Manly Medal type was struck in 1790 – when Washington was still alive and it was the first Washington medal to be struck in the United States, cementing its importance in early American numismatics. The medal was struck in four metals – gold (unique and in the Massachusetts Historical Society today), silver (extremely rare with perhaps 5-6 known), white metal and bronze. In the Rulau-Fuld reference the white metal is listed as 8-10 known examples, while in George Fuld’s October, 2008 article in *The Numismatist*, he listed 19 different white metal pieces and “more than 100” in bronze. Musante lists the silver and white metal pieces as Very Rare. These white metal examples really come in just two ways – nice examples that look like they were saved by collectors, and damaged examples that were likely pocket pieces or holed and may have been used as Indian Peace Medals, with nothing really in-between these two extremes! The last nice white metal that sold was Syd Martin’s Choice AU that brought \$10,200 last year, and the cataloguer there noted 25 examples known to him. Aside from a bent, pitted example, the Stack’s Bowers archives contain none under EF grade. This one has a far more interesting story to tell and is just.....\$1,600

*From the late H. Joseph Levine’s Presidential Coin and Antique Company June, 2011 sale, Lot 150, accompanied by the original lot ticket.*

## *An Early Sansom Medal in White Metal*

### *One of the first medals struck at the Philadelphia Mint*



**83. “1797” (circa 1805-7) Sansom medal. Presidency Relinquished. Original Dies; Early Die States. Musante GW-58, Baker-71B, Julian PR-1. White Metal. Rarity-6. About Uncirculated,** a piece that has been polished at some point, likely to remove some light spotting or hairlines, both of which are common to these white metal pieces. The good news is that the strike is razor-sharp, with every detail bold – and the polishing will be less evident as the medal tones down (or is helped to tone, something that would be justifiable in this case!). There are a couple light marks, the only ones of note being a couple small scratches above the branch on the reverse. This is a legitimately rare medal, especially in this metal. Just five or six years ago it was called a Rarity-7, which is too high, and R-6 seems far more accurate; Musante calls it rare, and that the “dies were ruined by rust quite early.” While examples are known from the rusted die states they tend not to be attractive, and collectors will always prefer an early die state example, such as here. One of the first medals to be struck at the Philadelphia Mint, with dies engraved by John Reich. These were ordered by Joseph Sansom to mark the historic retirement of George Washington – a man walking away from power and not trying to create a dynasty was something unheard of at the time. Part of a three-medal set Sansom created as a “History of the American Revolution,” the others with a bust of Franklin and with Washington and Franklin together; the Musante book illustrates a framed set of these meant to hang on the wall. Silver strikes are exceedingly rare, with perhaps six known, so a white metal piece is a stunning companion to the usually-seen bronze issues. A half century later, the Philadelphia Mint created new dies for this medal, striking pieces in gold, silver, bronze, and aluminum – but not in white metal. Most known white metal pieces are hairlined or have tin pest, perhaps one reason the restrikes were not made in that metal. A very well-detailed piece that will improve in appearance with time; Norweb’s rough EF brought \$1500 back in 2006 – thankfully prices have come down since! This one is just.....\$400



## *A FIRE GILT WASHINGTON HERO OF FREEDOM MEDAL*



**84. Circa 1800 Hero of Freedom Medal. Musante GW-81, Baker-79C. Bronze, Fire Gilt. Plain edge. Extremely Fine,** a large and handsome medal that would have gleamed like bright gold when new, and the reverse is very nearly in that condition still. There is rub on the high points of Washington's hair and the epaulet on his shoulder, and those areas and the obverse fields have the gilt worn away, showing the bronze metal beneath, though ample gilt remains in the details of Washington's bust, and the entire periphery. The reverse fared better and is nearly full gilt, with just the lightest rub on the highest points of the design, which suggests this was in a collector's cabinet, obverse side up and the reverse protected by the soft felt it rested on, likely for a century or more. A very rare variant in the series, the planchets were gilded prior to strike and these were clearly made as something special, both flashier and costlier than the regular bronze versions. As late as the sale of the Ford collection this was touted as an extreme rarity with just three known. By the time the Norweb Washingtonia sold in 2006 the number was 5, but there were a pair in the original Baker collection sold in the 2019 C4 auction, and another pair in the Anton collection sold in the 2020 and 2021 C4 sales, these all high grade pieces that brought \$2,400 to \$3,600. The true population is likely 15 or so known in fire gilt, some quite high grade which were clearly cherished, others worn down as low as Good (!), which were likely kept as pocket pieces, as they would have been larger than any copper coin in circulation in the US – and wouldn't have circulated as a gold piece as a quick test would have shown it to be gilt and not actual gold. The 1800 date puts them at the time of the Washington funeral celebrations, and these gilt versions may have been produced for sale at – or for wearing to – some of those events, and the presence of silver specimens that included a holed and worn example in the Norweb sale strongly support that supposition. A special piece for the collector, there are only a handful of early Washington issues that come gilt, and they are quite stunning in hand, especially for those of us more used to copper hues.....\$750



## A SELECTION OF CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT BRITISH AND IRISH HALFPENCE AND FARTHING



**85. 1750 Counterfeit George II British Halfpenny, Defiant Head Family, Dies 3-50A.** Nearly Very Fine, the obverse a bit more evenly struck than the reverse. The legends are full on either side, the BR of BRITAN a bit weaker than the rest, but visible, and the date is all there. A popular and intriguing family, which was covered in great detail in the first volume of the counterfeit book series that is being published through C4 (if you don't have the book and are interested, please email me and I will get you the details – it is a 300 page reference, full of color illustrations that details all known die varieties for the families covered). Medium brown, light roughness, the reverse with some ancient scratches at the lower right, an acceptable example from a family that is almost unknown in truly choice condition. The Defiant Heads have very strong stylistic similarities to all the dies, with a high-domed forehead on the obverse bust and a dumpy-looking seated Britannia whose head and neck are usually ill-proportioned. The family is mainly dated 1750-2, and there are 20-odd die varieties known (including one or two discovered since the book came out, which is always to be expected for a first reference book on a series). Unlike some George II families, the Defiant Head family is usually on hefty planchet stock, within 10-20% of regal weight, this one for example weighing in at 132.4 grains and there are absolutely no mules known from other families – and, importantly, no dies or mules with George III dates. These factors, along with a couple known cast counterfeits of pieces in this family, suggest that they were made in or near the dates on the coins, or at least in the reign of George II (i.e. prior to 1760). The earliest-made counterfeits tend to be the heaviest, as they needed to compete with regal coinage – and could still be circulated at a profit since even a full-weight regal halfpenny contained only roughly half its face value in copper. As heavier coins were driven out of circulation, progressively lighter weight counterfeits followed, and the later counterfeits like the Simians and Young Heads are usually on planchets that weigh half of a regal coin, containing about 25% of the supposed face value in copper. The publication of die varieties makes these families enjoyable to collect, just as we would Connecticut or New Jersey coppers – though of course rarity information is unknown, and the state of research on the counterfeit series is akin to collecting state coinages right at the time the Crosby reference first came out, probably an era we all wish we could go back to in order to get some amazing bargains. This pleasing example is only.....\$100



**86. 1752 Counterfeit George II British Halfpenny. Simian Family, Dies 23-52I. Very Good,** a well-used example from one of the most popular – and crudest – families of counterfeits, named for the extremely long pole arm usually seen on the seated Britannia figure of the reverse issues, especially juxtaposed to a much shorter arm holding the branch, and on this one her arm, if unfurled, would reach past the date line! Evenly worn, with half the legends visible on either side, letters often quite weak, but still easily attributable, this being one of the series covered in the first reference book. The Simians are a fascinating and large family – and one that encompasses nearly every type of coin that would have been in circulation at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century – British and Irish, William III, George II and George III, halfpence and farthings (the only coin not yet known for the family being an Irish farthing, which was struck in so few years that it was likely not in circulation when the Simians were actually coined). Despite suggested dates going back to the 1690s (for the William III issue) and actual dates in the 1730s, the entire run of Simians is thought to have been produced in the 1790s, probably all in the latter half of that decade, right before the Soho Mint coinage was struck by Matthew Boulton, at which time counterfeits would have been quite difficult to circulate. There are many mules in this family, with George II obverses and George III dates – and vice-versa, showing the dies were all made and used around the same time. They also tend to be among the lightest-weight counterfeits, this one at 77.9 grains, nearly half the regal weight for the denomination. The Simians are also one of the most crude families of counterfeits, with nearly every die completely engraved by hand – including all the letters and numbers, which makes the family easy to identify. The individual die varieties are also easy enough to attribute, even when well-worn, since each die is unique, showing a level of difference greater than in most state coinage varieties, for instance. The George II Simian halfpence die varieties were published in our first volume of a planned series of books on counterfeits, *Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny & Farthing Families* (2018), and the farthing issues should be in the second volume the George III and Irish Simians will take longer to do since there are more of them. Dirt-cheap for a George II variety, which are many times rarer than the George III issues.....\$50

**A Very Rare 1762 Simian Halfpenny**  
*no regal coins struck with this date*  
*ex Clem Schettino, the discovery coin for the variety*



**87. 1762 Counterfeit George II British Halfpenny, Simian Family, Dies 30-62A. Fine,** struck off-center towards 7:00 on the obverse and 11:00 on the reverse, the centering cutting off much of GEORGIUS and BRITAN, but with the benefit of pushing the date up high on the coin, so that it is all on the planchet. This is highly important because while there are some 1752-dated Simians where the 5 could look like a 6, especially if partially off the planchet, this is a no-questions-asked 1762 date, one that was unknown to exist prior to the discovery of this particular coin. Since then one other 1762-dated variety has been discovered, and while a handful of both varieties have since been identified (some with the date off the planchet), they have both remained rare. There were no regal coins struck in 1762, and these non-regal dates have always been popular and commanded premiums. Medium brown, some surface roughness and mottled toning, and with an old dent below the R of REX which shows through as a raised bump on the reverse to the right of the shield. Weighing 68.2 grains, this is even lighter than the above piece, and almost half the weight of the Defiant Head coin offered above – and weighing less than a regal farthing would. Found in 1989 on eBay by Clem Schettino, this example is in his distinct handwritten envelope where it is called “presently unique??” and priced at a very strong \$2,000 – likely in the hopes of interested a collector like Syd Martin who, notably, did not have an example of this variety or date in the offering of his better counterfeits earlier this year. There were also no examples of this variety or this date in the January 2008 sale of the Mike Ringo collection of counterfeits – and if Mike had seen something like this he would have certainly bought it! Neither the light weight or the fictitious date stopped this coin from long circulation, really showing that then, as now, few people seemed to actually look closely at the coins they received in change. A rare opportunity to own the discovery example of a very special coin. While Clem had hoped for \$2,000 and would have accepted less, we think that a fairer price today would be.....\$400

*Sold for Clem Schettino's family, they will receive the entire sale price for this coin. It comes in Clem's distinct handwritten envelope.*



**An Uncirculated 1770 Coin X Family Variety**  
**A rare grade for a counterfeit**  
*Ex Clem Schettino*



**88. 1770 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Coin X Family, Dies 2-70A. Uncirculated**, a nearly unheard-of grade level for counterfeit British or Irish coppers since these were made to circulate, not sit in collector's cabinets, preserved in high grade! Boldly struck, the legends and date full, the design details all razor sharp, including every strand of hair on the king and seated figures heads, and every detail in the armor, gown, shield, and branch. Medium brown, the surfaces choice to the eye, with a glass showing just a trace of roughness that was on the original planchet to the right of the seated Britannia, and absolutely no marks or damage from actual circulation. Most counterfeit coppers from this era exist in well-used condition – they were made to use, and they got used a lot! Collectors of the era turned up their noses at counterfeits (though given the ample numbers that have survived to this day, there must have been some contemporary collectors who were intrigued enough to pull different varieties out of circulation and save them). One reason that this example exists in such choice condition is because it actually fooled collectors of the time, who would have thought it a regal coin because of the exceptional die work which is quite close to that found on the coins of this year – indeed, close enough that one wonders if a moonlighting mint worker cut the dies, possibly even using regal design punches! Adding to the deception, the small Coin X Family tends to weigh very close to full regal weight – this example at 148.9 grains, or just a grain short of the 150-grain standard. The fact that the Coin X Family is so robust in weigh and only comes dated 1770 and 1771 suggests that they were among the first of the George III counterfeits struck, and possibly in the very years they were dated (or at least quite close to those years). British numismatists would have certainly saved “first year of issue” coins, especially for a denomination which had not been struck in the previous 16 years, and it is amusing today to think that some of the coins they saved were, in fact, the counterfeits they would have otherwise disdained! From the Clem Schettino collection, where this was priced at \$1,400. There were no high-grade Coin X pieces in the first offering of Syd Martin's counterfeits, and while some have traded hands privately one has to go back to the 2008 Ringo sale to find a high grade example (a Choice AU, which brought \$632.50) offered at public auction. This one is very fairly priced at.....\$400  
*Sold for Clem Schettino's family, they will receive the entire sale price for this coin.*

# THE RARE LIONHEAD VARIETY

## One of the most amazing counterfeits

*Legends, date and designs cut into the die backwards!*



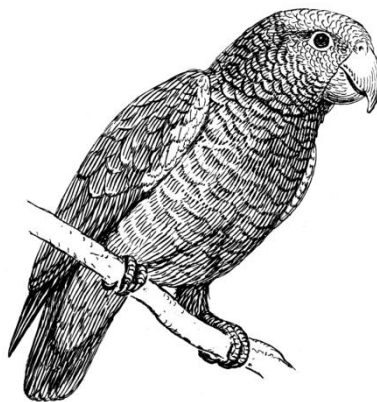
**89. 1771 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Peck Coin ZZ, the “Lionhead” variety, possibly part of the very rare Rubber Lady Family. Very Good,** a circulated example of this very rare and distinct variety, and one that spent a little time underground, which has lightly roughened the medium brown surfaces, leaving some diagonal raised striations, likely from being in moist soil. In offering the Choice VF Syd Martin coin earlier this year, the Stack’s Bowers cataloguers did an amazing job, which deserves to be quoted here: “One of the iconic counterfeit halfpennies among over 10,000 different varieties thought to exist, the Peck Coin zz always causes a stir when one of the handful of known specimens comes to market. The design motifs are completely reversed, George III facing left instead of right, as is Britannia, which faces right instead of left, and the legends begin at the lower right and go counterclockwise, rather than beginning at the lower left and running clockwise, as is normal. In addition, some letters are randomly upside down, and the die sinker inexplicably vacillated in the case of the V of GEORGIVS, repunching that letter rotated 180 degrees, as if ‘correcting’ that one letter mattered or even made any sense in the context of the otherwise totally blundered dies!” In our chapter on the Rubber Lady family in the first volume of the counterfeit book series, we suggested the Coin ZZ “Lionhead” variety might be tied to that family, which the Martin sale cataloguers agreed with. Only a small number of this distinct variety have appeared for auction, with Mike Ringo’s bringing \$4,312.50 in 2008, and the Anton-Kesse plate coin realizing \$2875 four years later. Syd Martin’s example was something of a bargain at \$1,800, though it was in a sale with a lot of exceptional counterfeits and several interested collectors were “keeping their powder dry” for things they wanted later in the auction. While not as nice as those examples, this one is interesting in that it weighs significantly less (75.8 grains as opposed to 108.2 grains for the Martin coin, 111.3 grains for the Ringo coin, and 107.1 grains for the Anton-Kesse plate coin), and has certainly circulated more than those specimens as well. If half regal weight, with an incredible array of diecutting errors didn’t keep this from circulating, then ANYTHING round and brown would have been accepted in commerce! From the famed Cobwright collection in the UK, this example later in several large American collections as well. While not the highest grade, it will likely be impossible to find another at anywhere near this price.....\$1,175



Polly Want a Cracker?



**90. 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Big Bird Family, Dies 1-75A, the “Parrot Head” variety. Fine/Very Good**, the reverse weaker than the obverse as often seen. A representative example of this popular family, the bust of George III looking very much like a parrot, with a beak ready to break open some nuts (perhaps fitting for a king who was, for a good portion of his life, actually nuts). Medium brown and mottled toning, the surfaces lightly rough, the reverse more than the obverse, and a bit of green verdigris at the lower left of that side. Full legends, BRITAN weaker than the rest, but visible, and the date mostly on the planchet. The Big Bird family is detailed in the first volume of the counterfeit series, and four varieties are listed there, using four obverse and three reverse dies dated 1772 and 1775, though another variety with a completely different date has since been discovered to be part of this family, which will be detailed in the next volume of the series. The series comes on planchets that are heavier than some of the later counterfeits such as the Simians, this one weighing 113.6 grains. The individual die varieties range from rare to very rare, and while this is likely the most available one for the family, it is still quite difficult to find. The first Ringo sale in 2008 had one example from this family as Lot 5964, mistakenly called a 1776, that brought \$1,840. That was the high water mark for the variety, and thankfully prices have gone down considerably since then! This one is just.....\$90





***A Crude British Toon Head Family Counterfeit  
With Backwards S in GEORGIVS***



**91. 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny. British Toon Head Family, Dies 1-75A, Anton-Kesse Plate 9. Very Fine**, a bold example of this crude counterfeit, with the legends, date, and design details all sharp. The legends are crudely laid out, the S in GEORGIVS is backwards, and the N in BRITAN was originally punched in backwards but then corrected, the original diagonal crossbar of the first N still visible. Though the letters are crude, they are from punches and not hand engraved, though it is likely the Rs started out as an I punch, with the rest of the letter engraved in by hand. Wonderfully crude designs on both sides, the obverse bust with the King having a vacant, simple expression, and with a prominent double chin. His hair and the laurel leaves he wears are done in thick lines, deeply cut into the die and thus in much higher relief than his face. Those simplistic lines are mirrored in the drapery detail of the seated reverse figure and the shield by her side. Like the Connecticut copper series, the leaves on the branch were added by hand, though here none of them are actually attached to the branch and they look more like butterflies floating around it. The Toon name for the family is obvious given the cartoonish look to the bust, but an interesting aspect of this family is the use of a head and neck punch for the seated Britannia for some of the listed varieties – on this particular one the punch was not properly aligned, and her head is tilted back, almost looking like it was not connected to her body. Medium brown, light but even roughness and some light raised gunk at the upper reverse. At just 90.9 grains, the lightweight just adds insult to injury. Overall a bold example of this laughably obvious counterfeit – yet it is a variety that saw extensive circulation as there are many examples known in grades of VG-Fine, often damaged. Originally thought to be quite rare (and expensive when the first few turned up on eBay), a small number came over from England when Americans started paying crazy money for them. Still not often seen, and for someone who just wants a couple counterfeits that are distinct, this is a variety worth owning. The one on our last list, a nice EF, sold quickly at \$250 and with multiple orders. This one is a shade off that, but a lot less money at just.....\$125

*Listed as No. 9 in the 1990 Anton-Kesse work, the authors there state that the first N on the reverse is an A partially overstruck on an upside down A which, like most of the text in that book, is incorrect. However much the book got wrong factually it is still worth owning due to the wonderful photographs of some truly great coins.*

## **An Atypical Simian Counterfeit** *Die linked to the Evasion Copper Series!*



**92. 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Simian Family. Very Fine**, most details high in that grade level. A rather atypical Simian, with the obverse bust engraved in fine detail, and the Britannia figure on the reverse with more normal-sized arms, but assuredly part of the Simian family, with letters and date all engraved into the dies by hand, and with an unusual teardrop-shaped shield, which is common on the Simian farthings. Everything is sharp as expected for the grade, and given the very thin 74.5 grain planchet, there was likely no more design detail than this when the coin was first struck. Medium brown, the obverse with some mottled hues that do not look bad in-hand, the surfaces hard and a bit glossy. No major marks from circulation, and overall quite pleasing. This obverse was also paired with a 1777-dated Simian reverse that is part of the evasion copper series, having the word "GILT" mistakenly engraved in the globe area and partially gouged out, looking like a cud! The more you study the counterfeit series, the more weird things like this show up, and you see dies crossing the lines between counterfeit, evasion, and even Conder tokens! This is a scarcer variety, and few are appreciably better than this, including the example in this cataloguer's collection. A Clem Schettino coin, priced at \$685 on his envelope, we think a fairer price today to be.....\$150

*Sold for Clem Schettino's family, they will receive the entire sale price for this coin. It comes in Clem's distinct handwritten envelope.*

## Magic “1776” Date Counterfeit Irish Halfpenny

*No regal coins struck this year?*



**93. 1776 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny, Moore-45 variety.** Fine, some details stronger than that, especially the centers of either side, though weak at the lower left obverse and upper reverse, the first letter of the obverse and IBERN of HIBERNIA on the reverse weak, though with the all-important 1776 date quite strong. The bust shows strong detail in the hair and face, while all the harp strings are bold, which helps in attribution, as does the placement of the tiny dot above the obverse figure's head, here sitting in the V-shaped notch between the top leaves of the laurel wreath and the hair. This notch is found on the Georgivs Triumpho family which has a large number of British-style dies, so it is not unlikely that whoever made them also branched out into Irish coppers – and, perhaps, with farthings from that family waiting to be discovered. The 1776 Irish coppers have long been considered a non-regal date, that is a date in which no regal coins were actually struck. However, a very well-made and regal weight variety has been found, and is illustrated in Roger Moore's article on the series, which also includes plates illustrating the varieties then known. That article can be found in the April 2014 issue of *The Colonial Newsletter* (whole number 154), which is available for viewing and download for free on the Newman Numismatic Portal. As we have noted in coins offered earlier in this list, there are well-made and full-weight counterfeits (such as the Coin X Family), and a profit could still be made on such things, and with further research it may be found that the 1776-dated piece thought to be regal is actually a deceptive contemporary counterfeit; there are no records of 1776-dated Irish pieces being struck at the Tower Mint, so this is a mystery waiting to be solved. The coin offered here though is most definitely a counterfeit, weighing 117.9 grains, and on a planchet of smaller diameter and thickness than known regal issues. The handful of American colonial coins bearing the 1776 date are mostly rare and expensive – think Continental dollar (even if struck 8 years later than the date it bears), the two varieties of Machin's Mills halfpence (one extremely rare, one more available but still expensive in grades of VF or better), or the 1776-dated Massachusetts "patterns" (which we still think were made far later than that date). The more affordable way to own a coin of this date which may have actually circulated in America would be Spanish American silver, or counterfeit British or Irish halfpence. Once considered quite rare, there are surprisingly more varieties than one would have thought in Moore's article, and where they used to bring \$200 a pop in low grades, this is now only.....\$75



## *A Neat Late Obverse Die State Irish Counterfeit*



**94. 1781 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny. Very Fine**, from an unknown family – very few of the Irish pieces have been sorted into families, and only a couple found their way into the first volume of the counterfeit book series, though this coin will find its way into a family in the future, as there are several varieties known with similar style. Well struck, the legends full, the first two digits of the date a bit weaker than the next two, and with the central design detail mostly strong. The left obverse and lower reverse show traces of the border, with a series of dots used instead of denticles. An extremely late die state of this obverse, with a huge diebreak extending up from the first G of GEORGIVS to the second G in that word, pretty much obliterating the latter, and another smaller break at the base of the obverse – this is one of those fun varieties that can be collected by die state, as both early and middle states of this obverse are also known. Very pleasing medium brown, the surfaces mostly hard, with a few faint traces of roughness, and the expected minimal marks from circulation. The Irish counterfeits skew a bit lighter overall than the British ones – as did the regal coinage. This one, at 96.5 grains, was about average for a George III counterfeit, though some of the George II issues were done at (or even above) regal weight. A pretty coin in hand, this comes in Clem Schettino's distinct handwritten envelope, where it was priced at \$475. A fairer price today is just.....\$150

*Sold for Clem Schettino's family, they will receive the entire sale price for this coin. It comes in Clem's distinct handwritten envelope.*

## *An Early Die State Laughing Head Simian Farthing*



**95. 1773 Counterfeit British Farthing. Simian Family, Anton-Kesse 90 type, the “Laughing Head” variety. Very Fine**, struck slightly off-center, pushing the tops of GEOR off the planchet on the obverse. This is the popular Laughing Head variety – hey, Connecticut coppers can’t be the only mirthful coins out there! The dies, like nearly all the Simian varieties, are completely hand-engraved, and one can see the similarities in letters between this and the British Simian types offered earlier; this shows the long pole arm on the reverse figure (with an apparent lack of elbow joint, something also commonly seen on the British style reverses in this family), and a very short branch arm. Medium mottled tan, the planchet with some light roughness at the center of the reverse, though nicely free of marks from circulation. The Simians are always charmingly crude, and this nicknamed variety is no different. It is also a variety that offers an array of striking errors – this writer did an article on them for a recent issue of *The C4 Newsletter*, and as noted in that article, both the obverse and reverse dies of this variety broke early, the obverse here showing in the much rarer early die state, showing just light swelling under the GE of GEORGIUS, and the reverse in a perfect state, before the kidney-shaped die swelling appears in the left field. Oddly, despite both dies failing early, they held together, and this is probably the most common Simian farthing variety out there – despite the fact that these dies were used in very limited pairings – this obverse only with this reverse, and this reverse used with just one other obverse for a very small coinage in its latest die state. The first volume of the counterfeit book series published through C4 contained plates for the George II Simian family, and it is expected that the second volume will contain the Simian farthing issues, of both George II and George III. At 41.8 grains, this is slightly heavier than half the weight of a regal farthing, but because of the small size of that denomination, this would have been more deceptive than a thin Simian halfpenny would at the same weight ratio. Another naked-eye counterfeit, especially charming due to the crudeness of the designs. In Clem Schettino’s original handwritten envelope, priced there at a then-reasonable \$195, though priced here at less, just .....\$110

*The Anton-Kesse book calls this “likely of American manufacture” in the mistaken belief that anything crude must have been American made and ignoring the fact that there were bad engravers everywhere. The issue is undoubtedly of British manufacture and though the majority of the variety may now be in American collections, nearly all of them came from UK sources within the last couple decades*

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